

US warns Iran

Any attack on shipping will trigger devastating response, Pentagon says amid Hormuz tensions. | P8

REGION 11 Interceptions trigger loud blasts across UAE

THE DAILY tribune

Volleyball giants collide as Crown Prince Cup reaches semi-final stage 15 SPORTS

BUSINESS 07 Brussels keeps options open over possible US tariffs

Calls For Diplomacy

Bahrain reaffirms support for Ukraine peace process during president's visit

TDT | Manama

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Manama. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, regional developments, and the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The meeting was attended by HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

HM King Hamad welcomed Zelensky on his visit to Bahrain and reviewed ways to strengthen



HM the King, in the presence of HRH Prince Salman, holds talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

cooperation between the two countries across various sectors in a manner that serves their mutual interests. The talks also covered recent regional and international developments, including

tensions in the Middle East and efforts to address them, as well as updates on the Ukraine conflict.

The king expressed appreciation for President Zelensky's "sincere solidarity" with Bahrain following recent Iranian attacks on the kingdom and other Gulf Cooperation Council states.

He also reaffirmed Bahrain's support for initiatives aimed at promoting dialogue and diplomacy to achieve a sustainable peace in Ukraine, stressing the importance of stability for Europe and the wider world.

Manama Dialogue Praised

Sir John Chipman concludes tenure with appreciation for Bahrain partnership

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received the outgoing Executive Chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Sir John Chipman, at Gudaibiya Palace, marking the end of his tenure.

During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince underlined the importance of continued cooperation between Bahrain and leading international research and policy institutions, including the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

He praised Sir Chipman's contribution to strengthening ties between Bahrain and the institute, particularly through the organisation of the Manama Dialogue, which has become a prominent international forum



HRH Prince Salman receives Sir John Chipman, in the presence of HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

on regional and global security issues.

HRH Prince Salman said the Manama Dialogue has developed into a key platform that brings together senior policymakers and security experts

from around the world to discuss pressing strategic challenges.

He wished Sir Chipman success in his future endeavours.

Sir Chipman, for his part, expressed appreciation for the

Crown Prince's continued support for cooperation with the institute, and wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was also attended by HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister

of the Prime Minister's Court, at Gudaibiya Palace.

Six-month extension approved for councils

Meanwhile, HRH Prince Salman issued a decree extending the term of the municipal councils by six months, citing necessity due to current circumstances and their resulting impact.

Under Decree No. (17) of 2026, the extension takes effect when the councils' current terms expire. The existing municipal councils will continue to carry out their duties until new councils are formally formed.

The decree also stipulates that all relevant authorities must implement its provisions within their respective mandates. It will come into force the day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

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Takaful International announces its financial results for the first quarter of 2026
PAGE 6

Detention over social media post

Rehab Mohammad TDT | Manama

Public Prosecution ordered the detention of a 20-year-old man and referred him to criminal court on charges of insulting religious symbols on the social media platform X, authorities said.

The Cybercrime Directorate reported that an account published offensive posts targeting the wives of the Prophet Muhammad and one of his companions. Investigators identified the suspect, who was arrested under a prosecution warrant. He reportedly confessed during questioning after being confronted with the posts and digital evidence.

The Cybercrime Prosecution said the case falls under laws criminalising insults to religious figures, which carry penalties of up to one year in prison.

Luxury Redefined

Gulf Air Expands Premium Offering in Strategic Partnership with beOnd

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and beOnd, the world's first premium leisure airline, announced a strategic partnership to redefine the premium travel experience for passengers flying across both airlines' networks.

By uniting Gulf Air's established global network with beOnd's distinctive leisure-focused offering, the agreement opens new journey possibilities and elevates connectivity for travellers seeking a premium, end-to-end travel experience. The partnership enables customers to book and travel seamlessly across an expanded range of connected routes.

The agreement was formalised at a signing ceremony held in Bahrain at the Bahrain Na-



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and Mr. Khalid Taqi, Chairman of Gulf Air Group, along with senior government and industry officials, attend the agreement-signing ceremony

tional Theatre, attended by H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunication, Mr. Khalid Taqi, Chairman of Gulf Air Group, along with senior government and industry officials. The milestone re-

flects a shared commitment to delivering an elevated passenger journey — from the moment of booking through to arrival — underpinned by coordinated customer experience practices and a unified standard of premium hospitality

Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Martin Gauss, stated: "We are proud to launch this partnership with beOnd and to bring our customers an even richer travel experience. As Bahrain's national carrier, with a heritage spanning more than 75 years, Gulf Air has always placed the passenger at the heart of everything we do. This partnership deepens that commitment, combining the strength of our global network with beOnd's exceptional leisure proposition to create journeys that are truly memorable."

beOnd Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Mr. Tero Taskila, commented: "Bahrain holds a unique place in the story of aviation — a region where the history of flight stretches back more than a century, and where the ambition has never

stood still. The Bahrain National Aviation Strategy reflects that same forward momentum: a clear commitment to connectivity, high-value tourism, and a premium travel experience worthy of the Kingdom's standing. Through our partnership with Gulf Air, beOnd is proud to play a part in that future — bringing a differentiated, all-premium leisure experience to Bahrain and connecting the Kingdom to the travellers it deserves. Together, we are building something that feels both grounded in this place and genuinely new."

The partnership reinforces both airlines' strategic priorities: growing premium leisure travel, driving inbound tourism, and cementing Bahrain's standing as a world-class destination and a leading hub for travellers across the region and beyond.



Optional School Tests Record 94pc Attendance

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Education Minister Mohammed Juma said that attendance in several recent optional school examinations exceeded 94 percent across public and private schools, highlighting strong student discipline.

Speaking in a video message posted on social media on Tuesday, Juma said pupils had turned up in large numbers for assessments conducted by the Ministry of Education and the Education and Training Quality Authority, despite some of the tests not being compulsory.

"I wanted to speak today because I was so pleased by the discipline shown by boys and girls in public and private schools," he said, rejecting suggestions that students preferred distance learning or were avoiding school responsibilities.

The minister said Grade Four students recorded more than



We are very pleased with the discipline shown by students in public and private schools.

MOHAMMED JUMA, EDUCATION MINISTER

94 per cent attendance in the PIRLS international reading assessment, which measures literacy levels after the first years of schooling. He added that Bahrain participates in the test to evaluate curricula and

teaching methods.

He also reported similarly high participation in TIMSS, the international mathematics and science assessment for Grade Four and Grade Eight students, where attendance exceeded 94 per cent and 95 per cent respectively among registered pupils.

National examinations for Grade Nine and Grade Twelve students recorded attendance rates of between 94 and 96 per cent, he said, describing the figures as evidence of "the highest levels of discipline" among students.

"Some people did not even expect us to reach 50 per cent," Juma said. "As soon as schools informed students about national exams, they came and sat them."

He also cited assessment tests for students entering the International Baccalaureate programme next year, noting that more than 3,000 students took part with a 98 per cent attendance rate.

National Unity Stressed

TDT | Manama

The Writers and Authors Family in Bahrain affirmed that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's remarks to the media clear-

ly reinforce the nation's firm stance on safeguarding the Kingdom of Bahrain's security and stability.

In a statement issued by the group, it said His Majesty's message strongly underlined

that Bahrain's security and stability are a non-negotiable priority, and that national responsibility requires a clear and decisive position in addressing challenges without hesitation or ambiguity.

Teen Drug Ring Exposed

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A criminal case involving four Asian nationals, aged 16 to 19, is currently being heard in Bahrain over allegations of drug trafficking, importation, and possession of narcotics. One defendant remains at large outside the Kingdom.

According to case documents, the accused are alleged to have formed an organised network during 2025 to import illegal drugs, including cannabis, heroin, and morphine, from abroad

and distribute them within Bahrain. Authorities say the group used covert methods such as a "dead drop" system, where narcotics were received and later redistributed for payment.

The first, second, third, and fourth defendants are accused of playing structured roles within the network, including importation, collection, packaging, and distribution of drugs.

Investigations revealed that on 9 September 2025, a customs officer at Bahrain International Airport flagged a suspicious

parcel arriving from Thailand during X-ray screening. The package was found to contain five bags suspected to hold marijuana, weighing around 1.4 kilograms.

Authorities said that on the following day, the third defendant attempted to collect the parcel after being directed by the first defendant, reportedly in exchange for a payment of BD 3.

The court has adjourned the case to 12 May 2026 to allow defence lawyers to submit their arguments.

First groups of Hajj mission set to depart Thursday



Hajj mission begins distributing Nujuk cards to 4,625 Bahraini pilgrims through licensed campaigns ahead of Thursday's first departures, in coordination with Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to streamline procedures for entry into the holy sites.

Bahrain US Ties



Minister of Housing and Urban Planning H.E. Amina bint Ahmed Al Romaini received U.S. Ambassador H.E. Stephanie Lyn Hallett, where both sides highlighted the strong and historic Bahrain-U.S. relations and discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Germany Cooperation



Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications received Henning Simon, the German Ambassador, highlighting strong bilateral ties and discussing the expansion of cooperation in the transport, communications, and logistics sectors.

Illegal Fishing Seizure



Coast Guard seized 377 illegal fishing traps and nets over the past three months of 2026 (February-April) as part of ongoing efforts to protect Bahrain's marine resources and ensure compliance with fishing regulations.

Southern Staff Honoured



Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications received Henning Simon, the German Ambassador, highlighting strong bilateral ties and discussing the expansion of cooperation in the transport, communications, and logistics sectors.

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- ▶ Menstrual problems
- ▶ PCOD (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome)
- ▶ Endometriosis
- ▶ STD testing and treatment
- ▶ Vaginal infections
- ▶ Urinary tract infections
- ▶ Contraception: Copper T (IUD), Implant
- ▶ Menopause management
- ▶ Cancer screening & HPV vaccination

Women's Health Screening Package

▶ Ultrasound Scan
▶ Gyne Consultation

15

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Sharp Rise in Fire Incidents

Summer Heat Fuels Dangerous Rise in Home Fires

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

With the onset of summer, fire incidents are climbing across Bahrain, with several cases reported in recent weeks. As previously reported by TDT, 1,189 fires were recorded in the first half of 2024, compared to 5,900 in the same period of 2025. The General Directorate of Civil Defence largely links the surge to negligence, ranging from children handling flammable materials to the unsafe use of electrical appliances.

Adding to this, summer means air conditioners are running longer, harder, and almost non-stop. While they keep homes livable, they also quietly push household electrical systems to their limits, raising the risk of fires caused by overload, overheating, and faulty wiring.

Civil Defence warns that most home fires stem from routine lapses such as poor maintenance and exceeding electrical limits. Air conditioners pose an added risk when not regularly serviced due to dust buildup, poor ventilation, and worn components that can lead to faults and overheating. Experts emphasize simple



Civil Defence at a recent fire incident site, working to contain the blaze.

prevention: balance electrical loads, avoid unsafe extensions, and service cooling systems regularly. Smoke detectors also remain vital for early fire detection and prevention.

Fire Liability Depends on Cause

On the legal side, liability may extend beyond the affected unit depending on the cause of the fire. Speaking to The Daily Trib-

une, lawyer Afaf Tarada said, "If the fire does not originate from your apartment and is not caused by your own negligence, liability may fall on the other party involved. Determining responsibility requires official Civil Defence reports to establish the cause of the fire and identify those at fault."

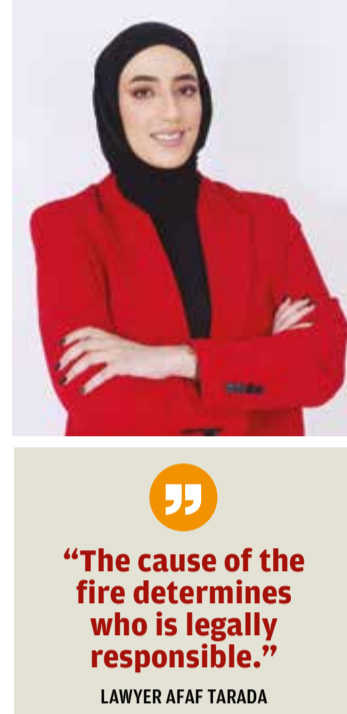
The statement highlights the importance of formal investi-

gations in residential fire cases, particularly where damage can spread between multiple apartments.

Beyond legal accountability, real-life incidents also underline how minor oversights can sometimes lead to significant damage. Speaking to TDT, a resident named Anjali Nair recalled a recent cooking oil fire incident in her friend's apartment that

was fortunately contained before it could spread further. She added that it quickly spread to a wooden cupboard installed directly above the cooktop.

She added that, in hindsight, greater attention to such small details in everyday living and design could help prevent similar incidents. As the saying goes, small cracks can bring down the wall.



"The cause of the fire determines who is legally responsible."

LAWYER AFAF TARADA

Insurance Fraud Case

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Court of Cassation rejected an appeal filed by an Asian man convicted in a forged document and insurance fraud case, upholding a 10-year prison sentence, the Public Prosecution said.

The court also upheld an earlier ruling ordering the defendants to jointly pay 5,001 Bahraini dinars in temporary civil compensation to the affected insurance company.

According to the Capital Governorate Prosecution, the case began after Al-Hoorra Police Station received a report concerning a disputed life insurance claim worth \$500,000.

Investigations showed that the first defendant had applied for a life insurance policy in favour of his wife, the third defendant. The company was later informed that the insured person had died, prompting the wife—assisted by her brother, the second defendant—to file a civil claim and obtain a court order for payment.

Suspicion arose within the insurance company, which commissioned an external investigation. The findings reportedly confirmed that the insured person was still alive and that the submitted death certificate had been forged.

The court also ordered the deportation of two defendants after serving their sentences, alongside the civil compensation order.

Deportation After Sentence

The court has reduced the prison sentence of an Asian woman convicted of human trafficking and ordered her deportation after completing her term, the Public Prosecution said.

The First High Criminal Court lowered the sentence from 15 years to five years following an objection to an earlier in-absentia ruling.

The defendant was found guilty of trafficking a fellow Asian woman between August and November 2019 by recruiting, transporting and harbouring her for prostitution through coercion, threats and deception.

Prosecutors said the victim was initially promised a job in Bahrain but was instead forced into prostitution after arriving in the country. She later escaped and reported the case to authorities.

The court also ordered the defendant's permanent deportation upon completion of her sentence.

Parliament Seat Bid Moves From Numbers to Procedure

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A bid to strip three MPs of their seats cannot take effect by being filed alone. It must pass through a formal path of notice, committee review, a chance for the members concerned to answer the case, and then a two-thirds vote in Parliament.

That path has come into sharper view as more MPs add their names to the move against Abdulnabi Salman, Mahdi Al Shuwaikh and Mamdouh Al Saleh. The case now rests on procedure as well as numbers, with the Constitution and Parliament's internal rules giving the chamber the final say.

Article 99 of the Constitution states that an MP's membership ends if, during the term, the member is found to have lost one of the

required conditions for holding the seat. Membership can also be ended over loss of trust and standing, or breach of parliamentary duties. In all such cases, the decision needs the approval of two-thirds of Parliament's members.

The internal rules allow at least 10 MPs to submit a written request to the Speaker seeking to strip a member of his or her seat. The request must give reasons tied to the grounds named in Article 99.

Once the request is filed, the Speaker checks that it meets the formal requirements, sends a copy to the MP concerned, and places it on the agenda of the next sitting. Parliament then decides on referring it to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

The committee cannot begin its review until the MP has been notified to attend at a stated time. The member must be given at least



Abdulnabi Salman, MP

three days' notice before the meeting, must be heard, and must be allowed to present a defence. The MP may also ask another member of Parliament to assist during the discussion.

If the member does not attend, a second notice must be sent under the same rules. If the absence continues without an accepted excuse, the committee may carry on and finish its work.

SIU Records Key Testimonies

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Special Investigation Unit (SIU) received 14 complaints during the first third of 2026 involving allegations within its jurisdiction, according to Acting Advocate General and SIU head Mohammed Khalid Al-Hazaa.

In a statement outlining the unit's operational and investigative activity, Al-Hazaa said investigators heard testimony from 19 complainants and witnesses and interrogated 16 suspects and accused individuals, all of whom were law enforcement personnel.

He added that six complainants were referred to the Forensic Medicine and Psychological Support Division as part of ongoing investigations, in line with established procedures for evidence collection and victim support.

Detainee death case

In one case, following the completion of investigations into a detainee's death, the SIU referred an accused person in custody to the High Criminal Court. Investigators found that the accused had assaulted the detainee, resulting in his death. The first hearing in the case was held on May 4, 2026.

Separately, disciplinary proceedings led to sanctions against two police officers after investigations confirmed legal violations that warranted accountability, the statement said.

Statistics of the work of the SIU during the first third of 2026



"All complaints received during the period were handled in accordance with established legal procedures, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and respect for due process."

MOHAMMED KHALID AL-HAZAA, ACTING ADVOCATE GENERAL AND HEAD OF THE SIU

Asian man jailed 5 years

A 26-year-old Asian man was sentenced to five years in prison and fined BD 3,000 by Bahrain's High Criminal Court for defrauding a Bahraini woman of BD 1,030 in an online scam.

The court found that the defendant, working with an unidentified accomplice, impersonated a company employee and tricked the victim into sharing a one-time password (OTP) and banking details, which allowed access to her account.

The Public Prosecution said the fraud, carried out on April 22, 2024, involved misusing electronic credentials to illegally transfer funds from the victim's account.

Investigations showed that BD 1,000 was transferred to the defendant's account and withdrawn the same day. A further AED 9,913.50 was also linked to the case.

Fully digital system streamlines hiring procedures

Ministry of Labour introduced an upgraded digital service allowing employers to track applications and inquiries more efficiently, as part of ongoing government efforts to improve service quality and streamline procedures.

The newly developed service enables employers to communicate directly with ministry coordinators through the national employment platform, facilitating faster follow-up on recruitment processes while ensuring full documentation of interactions.

Under the upgrade, the service delivery time has been reduced from five working days to just one, representing a minimum 25 percent improvement in service-level agreements. The ministry said the



"The launch underscores our ongoing efforts to improve service quality and operational efficiency, further strengthening the labour system's effectiveness."

SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN BIN MOHAMMED AL KHALIFA, LABOUR MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY

service is fully digitised, with 100 percent of processes now handled electronically via the nation-

al platform, alongside complete automation of procedural steps.

Enhancements also include an improved user interface and simplified procedures aimed at saving time and effort for beneficiaries while boosting overall government efficiency.

The development comes amid wider government initiatives to modernise public services, with more than 1,300 services documented, translated and published. Around 800 of these have undergone development and re-engineering across various sectors, based on feedback from the national suggestions and complaints system "Tawasul", investor input and service evaluation reports, including "mystery shopper" assessments.

When Hunger Is Not the Real Reason We Eat

How to regain control without restriction or self-blame

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

“You come back from a long day, not truly hungry... yet your hand automatically reaches for the fridge. Not because you need food but because you need to feel better.”

In moments like this, hunger isn't always physical. Often, it's emotional. This is what's known as emotional eating a behavior shaped by both psychological and nutritional factors, influencing how and why we eat.

Dietitian Manar Fuad explains that emotional eating is “eating in response to emotions rather than true hunger,” creating a mismatch between the body's energy needs and actual intake. She notes that stress plays a key role, increasing appetite and shifting eating into a reward-driven behavior due to hormonal changes. From a psychological perspective, Dr. Mariam Alammadi highlights that the issue often goes beyond food itself “Emotional eating usually isn't about food at all... it's about stress, anxiety, loneliness, or even boredom.”

Over time, the brain learns to



Emotional eating is usually not about food at all, it is about stress, anxiety, loneliness, or even boredom.

DR. MARIAM ALAMMADI

associate food with comfort. In cultures like Bahrain and across the Arab world, where food is closely tied to connection and care, this link can become even stronger.

A key step in understanding emotional eating is learning to distinguish it from physical hunger. Fuad explains that physical hunger builds gradually, comes with clear body signals, and stops when the body is full. Emotional hunger, however, is sudden, specific,



Physical hunger is gradual and body-driven, while emotional hunger is sudden, emotion-driven, and linked to specific cravings that may continue even after eating.

DIETITIAN MANAR FUAD

and driven by feelings rather than need often continuing even after eating.

This behavior can quickly turn into a cycle. Irregular eating patterns, strict dieting, and high-sugar foods can disrupt hunger signals and increase cravings. Psychologically, the aftermath also plays a role. “For many people, it's the guilt and self-crit-

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Emotional Eating

- High sugar and fat foods can trigger the brain's reward system.
- May lead to weight gain and blood sugar imbalance over time.
- Experts advise balanced meals, not strict restriction.
- Pausing before eating helps improve awareness and control.
- Frequent emotional eating may require dietetic and psychological support.
- It is often linked to unmet emotional needs, not willpower.

icism after eating that keeps the cycle going,” Alammadi says.

Learning and fun



At Fatima bint Asad Primary Girls School, science is coming alive through colour, creativity, and hands-on learning. Teacher Sadiqa Mirza Hassan is transforming traditional lessons into interactive experiences, using visual tools, concept maps, and student-made mini boards to simplify scientific ideas and deepen understanding. Each unit ends with foldable projects that allow students to creatively express what they have learned. Meanwhile at Al Hidd Primary Boys School, learning and behaviour have taken a playful turn with a “Super Mario”-inspired classroom initiative led by teacher Laila Yousif Ahmed. The programme uses rewards, structure, and a weekly digital newsletter titled “Golden Moments” to motivate students, improve discipline, and celebrate achievements—turning everyday lessons into an engaging and positive experience. (By Hasan Barakat)

Garage Water Run-Off Already Banned

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Public Cleanliness Law already bars washing cars or carrying out similar work in a way that sends water into streets, lanes or alleyways, Municipalities Affairs Undersecretary Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa has said, after a northern council proposal sought to make garage drains compulsory.

Shaikh Mohammed said the issue of water running out of home garages was dealt with under Law No. 10 of 2019, which bans acts that cause water to flow into public roads, paths or side lanes.

He said the aim behind such proposals rested mainly on citizens and residents following the law, as this would cut water discharge onto roads, protect public safety and help preserve the look of residential areas.

His remarks came after the



Strengthening public awareness and encouraging greater respect for laws and regulations are essential steps toward achieving our objectives.

SHAIKH MOHAMMED BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS UNDERSECRETARY

Northern Municipal Council approved a proposal by council member Basim Abu Idris to re-



We are asking for fixed water drainage to protect citizens, so they are not held liable when water leaks outside the home.

BASIM ABU IDRIS, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

quire owners of homes and residential units to install drainage channels inside garages and link

them to the sewerage network or another approved drainage system.

Abu Idris said water from garage washing had become a repeated sight on streets and pavements, harming the look of neighbourhoods and leaving pools of water that could put pedestrians and road users at risk, ‘especially children and the elderly’.

Order

He said leaving the matter without clearer order could damage asphalt layers and road infrastructure, raise repair costs and lead to smells and unwanted waste outside homes.

The council said the measure aimed at keeping streets and pavements clean, improving road safety, cutting complaints from residents and bringing garage water disposal in line with municipal and environmental rules.

No New Hospital Plan for South



Jaleela Al Sayyed, Minister of Health



Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Health Ministry has said the Southern Governorate is covered by existing government hospitals, primary care centres and specialist services, without announcing a new general hospital for the area.

The answer from Health Minister Jaleela Al Sayyed came in a written reply to MP Maryam Al Dhaen, who asked if there was a move to open a full public hospital covering all fields of medicine in the Southern Governorate.

The ministry said health planning is handled through the Supreme Council of Health, with other bodies, and is based on population growth, urban expansion, the working load of existing health buildings and other approved measures.

It said citizens in all governorates, including the Southern Governorate, already have access to specialist care through government hospitals and health bodies now in service. It added that residents would also benefit from King Abdullah Medical City once the health insurance scheme is applied.

The reply gave no site, cost, timetable or building plan for a new public hospital in the Southern Governorate.

Al Dhaen also asked about plans for more dialysis centres, with special mention of Isa

BETTER
YOU
KNOW

Bahrain primary healthcare services

- X-ray services operate nationwide during working hours, with 24/7 coverage
- Lab services have been extended at selected centres
- Dental clinics run Sunday-Thursday in morning and evening shifts
- Emergency dental care is available at nine 24-hour
- Bahrain's 24-hour health centres handle urgent primary care cases

Town, where she said the ministry had land that could be used.

The ministry said dialysis is now offered through government health centres and work with the private sector. It said the service covers existing need across Bahrain and runs around the clock under approved working and regulatory standards.

MP Seeks Pension Cover for Self-Employed Workers

TDT | Manama

Self-employed Bahrainis who reach 60 with no pension would be helped through unemployment insurance surpluses, under a proposal by MP Maryam Al Sayegh to cover small traders, craftsmen, fishermen, driving instructors and others who work for themselves.

The plan would also require all self-employed workers to join the social insurance system, giving them pension cover while adding more payers to the funds.

Al Sayegh said many such workers had spent years earning on their own, only to be left with no retirement income after illness, living costs or personal hardship forced them to close their commercial registrations or stop work.

She said that the proposal was aimed at Bahrainis who had worked for years outside standard jobs but were left without a safety net in old age.

“This group is not marginal,” she said. “They are fathers and mothers who spent their lives in honest work and contributed to building the economy.”

Under the proposal, part of the accumulated surplus in the



Some have reached the age of 60 without any insurance balance or pension entitlement. This threatens their living security, places them under heavy mental and financial pressure, and affects their families.

MARYAM AL SAYEGH, MP

unemployment insurance account would be used to create an exceptional fund or temporary national programme for self-employed Bahrainis with no pension cover.

Al Sayegh said the scheme would not add to the state budget because it would be funded from surplus money built up through citizens' contributions.

Takaful International Company B.S.C. INTERIM CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2026



(Bahraini Dinars)

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As At 31 March 2026		31 March 2026 (Reviewed)	31 December 2025 (Audited)
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		3,566,001	2,315,865
Term deposits		3,199,600	3,199,689
Financial assets at fair value		29,598,628	31,053,926
Retakaful arrangement assets		2,059,984	1,557,280
Other receivables, accrued income and prepayments		7,837,656	7,034,361
Property and equipment		127,940	144,831
Intangible assets		589,148	605,250
Right of use asset		323,939	305,783
Investment in an associate		257,589	249,953
Statutory deposit		125,000	125,000
TOTAL ASSETS		47,685,485	46,591,938
LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Takaful arrangement liabilities		27,709,195	26,118,305
Retakaful arrangement liabilities		630,452	471,341
Payables and accrued liabilities		5,858,713	5,237,370
Ijara liabilities		381,283	366,911
Tax liabilities		108,339	43,988
TOTAL LIABILITIES		34,687,982	32,237,915
PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS			
Surplus in participants' funds		1,185,241	1,022,417
Investments fair value reserve		(252,412)	231,235
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS		932,829	1,253,652
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Share capital		8,500,000	8,500,000
Treasury shares		(20,661)	(20,661)
Statutory reserve		1,332,863	1,332,863
General reserve		200,000	200,000
Retained earnings		2,268,044	3,110,418
Investments fair value reserve		(215,572)	(22,249)
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		12,064,674	13,100,371
TOTAL LIABILITIES, PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		47,685,485	46,591,938

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME For the three month period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)		Shareholders' Three months ended 31 March		Participants' Three months ended 31 March		Total Three months ended 31 March	
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	
Recognised takaful contributions	-	-	7,899,896	6,840,081	7,899,896	6,840,081	
Recognised takaful costs	-	-	(6,231,857)	(5,727,303)	(6,231,857)	(5,727,303)	
Retakaful net results	-	-	(1,765,261)	(889,883)	(1,765,261)	(889,883)	
Takaful participants' gross margin			(97,222)	222,895	(97,222)	222,895	
Participants' profit income on investment	-	-	278,899	294,382	278,899	294,382	
Participants' other investment income	-	-	16,524	10,295	16,524	10,295	
ECL gain on financial assets	-	-	3,175	1,036	3,175	1,036	
Mudarib share expense	-	-	(74,648)	(76,429)	(74,648)	(76,429)	
Amortisation of deferred cost (related to provision of takaful arrangements)	-	-	96,686	(185,454)	96,686	(185,454)	
Amortisation of deferred profit (related to provision of retakaful arrangements held)	-	-	52,159	27,062	52,159	27,062	
Other participants' expenses	-	-	(112,749)	(135,790)	(112,749)	(135,790)	
Net participant's surplus			162,824	157,997	162,824	157,997	
Wakala fee income	2,126,789	1,302,017	-	-	2,126,789	1,302,017	
Shareholders profit income on investment	109,119	115,994	-	-	109,119	115,994	
Shareholders other investment income / (expense)	41,575	(35,034)	-	-	41,575	(35,034)	
ECL (loss) / income on financial assets	(1,426)	1,354	-	-	(1,426)	1,354	
Mudarib share income	74,649	76,429	-	-	74,649	76,429	
Share of result of an associate	7,636	6,887	-	-	7,636	6,887	
Other income	23,999	6,200	-	-	23,999	6,200	
Total shareholders' income	2,382,341	1,473,847	-	-	2,382,341	1,473,847	
General and administrative expenses	(721,287)	(532,675)	-	-	(721,287)	(532,675)	
Commission expenses	(787,026)	(355,489)	-	-	(787,026)	(355,489)	
Other expenses	(131,604)	(104,986)	-	-	(131,604)	(104,986)	
Third party administration expenses	(247,838)	-	-	-	(247,838)	-	
Total shareholders' expense	(1,887,755)	(993,150)	-	-	(1,887,755)	(993,150)	
Profit before tax for the period	494,586	480,697	162,824	157,997	657,410	638,694	
Tax expense	(64,351)	(58,970)	-	(23,700)	(64,351)	(82,670)	
Net profit after tax for the period	430,235	421,727	162,824	134,297	593,059	556,024	
Earnings per share (fills)	5.07	4.96					

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the three month period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)		Three months ended 31 March 2026		Three months ended 31 March 2025		
	Shareholders	Participants'	Total	Shareholders	Participants'	Total
Net profit and surplus for the period	430,235	162,824	593,059	421,727	134,297	556,024
A. Items that will not be reclassified to interim condensed statement of income in subsequent periods						
Net changes in fair value of investments measured at FVOCI - equity instruments	(66,575)	-	(66,575)	(15,956)	-	(15,956)
B. Items that may be reclassified to interim condensed statement of income in subsequent periods						
Net changes in fair value of investments measured at FVOCI - debt instruments	(127,945)	(480,400)	(608,345)	38,023	89,098	127,121
Net changes in allowance for expected credit losses of investments measured at FVOCI - debt instruments	1,197	(3,247)	(2,050)	(1,418)	(1,036)	(2,454)
Total other comprehensive (loss) / income	(193,323)	(483,647)	(676,970)	20,649	88,062	108,711
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) / INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	236,912	(320,823)	(83,911)	442,376	222,359	664,735

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PARTICIPANTS' FUNDS For the three month period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)		Surplus in participants' fund		Investments fair value reserve		Total
	General takaful	Family takaful	General takaful	Family takaful		
Balance as at 1 January 2026 (Audited)	867,698	154,719	223,602	7,633		1,253,652
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	(419,105)	(64,542)		(483,647)
(Deficit) / surplus for the period	(83,039)	245,863	-	-		162,824
Balance as at 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)	784,659	400,582	(195,503)	(56,909)		932,829
Balance at 1 January 2025 (Audited)	935,287	236,910	(84,215)	(23,365)		1,064,617
Other comprehensive income	-	-	71,596	16,466		88,062
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	204,650	(70,353)	-	-		134,297
Balance as at 31 March 2025 (Reviewed)	1,139,937	166,557	(12,619)	(6,899)		1,286,976

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY For the three month period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)		Share capital	Treasury shares	Statutory reserve	General reserve	Retained earnings	Investments fair value reserve	Total equity
Balance at 1 January 2026 (Audited)		8,500,000	(20,661)	1,332,863	200,000	3,110,418	(22,249)	13,100,371
Profit for the period		-	-	-	-	430,235	-	430,235
Other comprehensive loss		-	-	-	-	-	(193,323)	(193,323)
Dividend for the year 2025		-	-	-	-	(1,272,609)	-	(1,272,609)
Balance as at 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)		8,500,000	(20,661)	1,332,863	200,000	2,268,044	(215,572)	12,064,674
Balance at 1 January 2025 (Audited)		8,500,000	(2,087)	1,191,041	200,000	2,896,315	(105,708)	12,679,561
Profit for the period		-	-	-	-	421,727	-	421,727
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-	-	-	20,649	20,649
Dividend for the year 2024		-	-	-	-	(1,062,297)	-	(1,062,297)
Balance as at 31 March 2025 (Reviewed)		8,500,000	(2,087)	1,191,041	200,000	2,255,745	(85,059)	12,059,640

INTERIM CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the three month period ended 31 March 2026 (Reviewed)		Three months ended 31 March	
	2026	2025	
Net cash used in operating activities	(66,561)	(1,151,651)	
Net cash generated from investing activities	1,352,019	1,494,335	
Net cash used in financing activities	(35,322)	(19,920)	
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,250,136	322,764	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	2,315,865	1,886,524	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	3,566,001	2,209,288	

These Financial Statements have been Audited by PwC and approved by the board of directors at their meeting held on 5 May 2026

Ebrahim Mohamed Sharif Alrayes
Chairman

Abdulaziz Abdulla Al Ahmed
Vice Chairman

Essam Mohamed Al Ansari
Chief Executive Officer

Licensed as a General and Family Takaful Company by the CBB

www.takafulbh.com

هوية متجددة تنبض بإرث عريق من الثقة
A REFRESHED IDENTITY, ROOTED IN A LEGACY OF TRUST

Takaful International announces its financial results for the first quarter of 2026

Manama

The Board of Directors of Takaful International Company B.S.C. (Trading Code: TAKAFUL) approved the financial results for the period ended March 31, 2026. The net profit of the shareholders after tax was BD 430K for the three months ending on March 31, 2026, a 2% increase from the net profit of BD 422K for the same period in the previous year. Comparatively, earnings per share for the three months ending on March 31, 2026, increased to 5.07 Fils from 4.96 Fils for the same period in the previous year. The comprehensive income for the three-month period ending on March 31, 2026, was BD 237K, a decrease of 46% compared to BD 442K for the same period in the previous year.

The Company reported a total net profit after tax of BD 593K during the first quarter of the year 2026 compared to BD 556K for the same period in the previous year, an increase of 7%. This improvement in performance is attributed to



Mr. Ebrahim Al Rayes, Chairman of the Board of Director

the company's consistently well-managed insurance operations during the first quarter. The Takaful Participants' Funds achieved a surplus of BD 163K during the first quarter of 2026, compared to a surplus of BD 134K for the same period of the previous year, an increase of 21%. The shareholders' fund achieved a profit after tax of BD 430K during the first quarter of the year 2026, compared to a profit of BD 422 for the same period of the previous year, an



Mr. Essam Al Ansari, the Company's Chief Executive Officer

increase of 2%. Recognized Takaful contributions were BD 7.90 million for the first quarter 2026, compared to BD 6.84 million for the same period of the previous year, an increase of 15%. Recognized Takaful Costs were BD 6.23 million during the first quarter 2026, compared to BD 5.73 million in the same period of the previous year, an increase of 9%. The company's shareholders equity amounted to BD 12.06

million as of March 31, 2026, compared to BD 13.1 million as of December 31, 2025, a decrease of 8%.

The company's total assets amounted to BD 47.69 million as of March 31, 2026, compared to BD 46.59 million as of December 31, 2025, an increase of 2%.

Commenting on the announced financial results, Mr. Ebrahim Al Rayes, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, expressed satisfaction with the Company's performance for the first quarter, noting that good results were achieved despite the prevailing geopolitical challenges in the Gulf region. He emphasized that these results reflect the strength of the company's cooperative model and its disciplined, Sharia-compliant approach to managing its operations and risks.

He reaffirmed confidence in the resilience of the Kingdom of Bahrain's economy and its capacity to navigate regional challenges, while expressing appreciation for the government's continued efforts in supporting the private sector and

maintaining economic stability.

The Chairman also expressed pride in the company's recent announcement to revert to its original legal name, Takaful International, describing it as a reaffirmation of its established identity and its enduring commitment to the principles of mutual cooperation, transparency, and shared responsibility underpinning Takaful.

For his part, Mr. Essam Al Ansari, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, stated that the Company achieved good results during the first quarter, with Takaful Fund delivering a solid performance driven by sound and disciplined insurance operations management. He noted that this performance reflects the company's continued focus on prudent underwriting practices, effective risk management, and operational efficiency, in alignment with Takaful principles.

He further highlighted the initiatives undertaken during the period to support participants amid challenging circumstances, including the provision of

emergency medical coverage for policyholders outside the Kingdom of Bahrain, the extension of medical services to ensure continuity of care, and the special discount offered to frontline workers in recognition of their dedicated service.

Mr. Al Ansari also noted that the recently unveiled refreshed logo represents a measured evolution of the company's visual identity, reflecting its forward-looking direction while remaining firmly rooted in its values and heritage.

About Takaful International Company

Takaful International Company B.S.C. is the first Islamic Insurance Company in Bahrain. It was established in 1989. The Company provides a wide range of insurance covers and products consistent with the principles of Islamic Shari'a that serves the various needs of individuals and corporates. The Company is a subsidiary of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company B.S.C. and is assigned a rating of A- Excellent by AM Best Credit Rating Agency.

Stocks advance, oil falls as traders eye US-Iran ceasefire

Brent North Sea fell around 2.7% to about \$111 per barrel

AFP | London, United Kingdom

European and US stocks advanced Tuesday as investors weighed first-quarter corporate earnings alongside uncertainty over the fragile US-Iran ceasefire.

Oil prices pulled back after the two sides traded fire as they vied for control of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial export route.

Wall Street's main indices advanced as trading got underway in New York, with the Nasdaq setting a new all-time high as tech stocks rebounded.

"US equities continue to get a boost from the first quarter earnings season," said Trade Nation analyst David Morrison.

He noted the year-on-year earnings growth rate over 27%, which if it holds up would make it the strongest quarter since the post-Covid rebound.

In Europe, Paris rose 0.7% and Frankfurt advanced 1.4% in afternoon deals.

London's FTSE 100 index fell more than 1% as traders returned from the UK bank hol-

Key figures at around 1330 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 2.7% to \$111.37 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ N 3.6% at \$102.59 a barrel
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.5% at 49,186.55 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.6% 7,245.66
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 0.8% at 25,260.09
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 1.4% at 10,218.85
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.7% at 8,034.40
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 1.4% at 24,325.06
Hang Seng Index:	▼ 0.8% at 25,898.61 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	Closed for a holiday
Shanghai - Composite:	Closed for a holiday
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 157.73 yen from 157.08 yen on Monday
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1703 from \$1.1701
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3550 from \$1.3538
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.35 pence from 86.41 pence

iday.

The index was weighed by a sharp drop to the share price of banking giant HSBC, whose first-quarter earnings missed expectations as profits were hit by a surprise \$400 million fraud-related charge and economic risks from the Middle

East crisis.

Italian bank UniCredit jumped more than six percent in Milan after it reported a sharp rise in first-quarter net profit.

"First-quarter corporate earnings have largely been robust so far which has helped to sustain global equities despite the

uncertain backdrop," said AJ Bell head of markets Dan Coatsworth.

"However, the longer the situation goes on without any sign of a lasting resolution, the harder it will be for investors to remain positive," he added.

Oil price falls

International oil benchmark Brent North Sea fell around 2.7% to about \$111 per barrel after sharp gains the previous day.

Crude prices surged Monday after the US military said it hit six Iranian boats threatening commercial shipping and its forces repelled missile and drones.

Fears that the ceasefire could fall apart weighed on Asian equities, with Hong Kong, Singapore, Mumbai, Bangkok, Manila and Wellington all down.

Sydney also retreated as the Australian central bank hiked interest rates for the third straight meeting, citing rising energy prices.

Tokyo and Shanghai were closed for holidays.

Gap co-founder Doris Fisher dies at 94

● Fisher and her late husband Donald Fisher opened the first Gap store in San Francisco in 1969.

AFP | Los Angeles, United States



Doris and Don Fisher in 2007.

Doris Fisher, the co-founder of American clothing retailer Gap, has died at 94, according to a statement from the company yesterday.

She died "peacefully, surrounded by her family," the company said, without giving a cause or date of death.

"There is simply no equal to Doris Fisher. In Gap-speak, she was a true original," company President and CEO Richard Dickson said in the statement. "She understood first-hand the value of self-expression, diversity, and inclusion. And she worked tirelessly to ensure that Gap Inc. always did more than sell clothes."

Fisher and her late husband Donald Fisher opened the first Gap store in San Francisco in 1969.

The couple made their mark on casual American style, putting a focus on ready-to-wear, affordable items like jeans, T-shirts and sweatshirts.

Doris Fisher came up with the company's name as a reference to the "generation gap" and young customers they sought to attract, according to The New York Times.

The Fishers' retail philosophy, The Times said, "was to make shopping easy by keeping sizes well organized and stores well stocked."

The company went on to ex-

pand to include other iconic brands including Banana Republic and Old Navy.

Today, Gap operates about 3,500 stores worldwide, including company-operated and franchise locations.

"Never content with what is, Doris continuously imagined what might be and then made it happen," Dickson said.

"In fact, a great deal of Gap Inc. culture at its best derives from Doris's influence."

She is survived by her three sons, Robert, William and John.



Gap actually got its name because it originally aimed to bridge the "generation gap" between young people and adults. When it was founded in 1969, the idea was to sell jeans and music that appealed to both groups under one roof.

Musk agrees to pay \$1.5 mn over Twitter share buying

AFP | Washington, United States

Elon Musk on Monday agreed to pay a small amount to end a government lawsuit that accused him of breaking stock market rules when he was se-

cretly buying up shares of Twitter before his \$44 billion takeover of the social media platform in 2022.

Musk's trust will pay a \$1.5 million fine under the deal, which was filed in a Washing-

ton federal court and still needs a judge's approval.

The case involves Musk's missing a statutory deadline for notifying regulators as he bought more and more Twitter shares ahead of the takeover.

Musk's attorney Alex Spiro cast the outcome as a vindication, saying his client "has now been cleared of all issues related to the late filing of forms in the Twitter acquisition, as we said from the outset he would be."

EU prepared for ‘every scenario’ after Trump car tariff threat

European Parliament has given conditional approval to the EU-US trade pact



Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa attend the Armenia-European Union summit in Yerevan

● France has repeatedly pressed for the bloc to unleash the potent ACI trade tool

● Dubbed the EU's “bazooka”, it allows for a range of responses from tariffs

AFP | Yerevan, Armenia

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday the bloc is “prepared for every scenario” after US President Donald Trump threatened to hike levies on European cars.

Trump vowed Friday to raise tariffs on EU cars and trucks from 15 to 25 percent, accusing the bloc of renegeing on a trade accord struck last year -- a charge von der Leyen rejected.

“A deal is a deal, and we have a deal,” the European Commission president told reporters in Yerevan. “We are both implementing

this deal while respecting the different democratic procedures we have on both sides.”

The European Parliament has given conditional approval to the EU-US trade pact, but a final ver-

sion still needs to be negotiated with the bloc’s member states.

The EU’s trade chief Maros Sefcovic is to hold talks in Paris Tuesday with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, who

has complained about a “very slow” EU approval process as well as amendments that would “limit the deal”.

“The president decided that if the Europeans aren’t implementing the deal right now, then we don’t have to implement all of it either at this time,” Greer said Monday.

The European Commission, which leads trade policy for the 27-nation EU, has made clear it is keeping its options open should Trump’s new car tariffs kick in, without speculating on what action it might take.

Macron demands ‘bazooka’

But French President Emmanuel Macron, also in Armenia on a state visit, said yesterday the bloc should be ready to activate its powerful anti-coercion instrument (ACI).

Slamming the US president for brandishing “threats of destabilisation”, Macron said the EU had “equipped itself with instruments that would then have to be activated, because that is precisely what they are for”.

Key EU power France has re-

peatedly pressed for the bloc to unleash the potent ACI trade tool, should Trump make good on successive trade threats aimed at European countries.

The EU has never deployed the instrument, aimed at dissuading countries from exerting geopolitical pressure on the bloc.

Dubbed the EU’s “bazooka”, it allows for a range of responses from tariffs on US goods to curbs on the export of strategic goods and the exclusion of American firms from tenders in Europe.

Last year’s trade deal capped US tariffs at 15% on most EU goods, including cars -- lower than the 25 percent Trump imposed on vehicles from many other trading partners.

The commission insists it remains committed to the accord.

“On the European Union side, we are now in the final stages of implementing the remaining tariff commitments,” said von der Leyen.

“At the same time, the US has the commitment -- for example where alignment with the agreed ceiling is still outstand-

ing,” she said.

“So we want from this work mutual gain, cooperation and reliability -- and we are prepared for every scenario.”



The Anti-Coercion Instrument is designed to act only as a last resort—the European Union must first try dialogue and diplomatic solutions before triggering any retaliation measures.

This makes the so-called “bazooka” not just a weapon, but a rules-based safeguard, ensuring that any response to economic coercion is legally structured and proportionate rather than immediate or arbitrary.

بنك البحرين الإسلامي

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME			CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
For the three months ended 31 March 2026			As at 31 March 2026			For the three months ended 31 March 2026		
		31 March 2026			31 March 2026			31 March 2026
		BD'000 (reviewed)			BD'000 (reviewed)			BD'000 (reviewed)
INCOME			ASSETS			OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Income from financing contracts	12,845	13,283	Cash and balances with banks and Central Bank	77,476	73,664	Profit for the period	3,180	10,002
Income from placements with financial institutions	3,060	1,924	Placements with financial institutions	226,243	293,129	Adjustments for non-cash items:		
Income from investment in Sukuk	5,293	3,532	Financing contracts	995,017	998,523	Depreciation and amortization	428	317
Expense on placements from financial institutions	(770)	(1,141)	Investment securities	412,627	390,347	Impairment allowance on financial instruments, net	1,464	2,688
Expense on placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	(2,303)	(5,449)	Investment in associates	7,691	7,691	Amortization of right-of-use asset	75	86
Expense on financing from financial institutions	(3,146)	(2,179)	Investment in real estate	13,721	13,721	Gain on sale of investment in Sukuk	(2)	(4)
Net finance income	14,979	9,970	Property and equipment	16,218	15,948	Gain on sale of investment in real estate	-	(9,523)
Fee and commission income, net	1,615	1,740	Other assets	11,211	11,253	Share of results of associates, net	-	(35)
Income from investment in real estate, net	7	9,554	TOTAL ASSETS	1,760,204	1,804,276	Operating profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	5,145	3,531
Share of results of associates, net	-	35	LIABILITIES, QUASI-EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY			Working capital adjustments:		
Other income, net	1,111	753	Liabilities			Mandatory reserve with Central Bank of Bahrain	(2,465)	175
Total income	17,712	22,052	Placements from financial institutions	29,078	90,595	Financing contracts	2,370	(4,680)
EXPENSES			Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	156,131	167,054	Other assets	2,304	(1,426)
Staff costs	3,565	4,292	Financing from financial institutions	280,907	260,125	Customers' current accounts	29,026	25,536
Depreciation and amortization	503	403	Customers' current accounts	283,622	254,596	Other liabilities	2,431	9,799
Other operating expenses	3,278	2,838	Other liabilities	46,226	43,296	Placements from financial institutions	(68,523)	32,753
Total expenses	7,346	7,533	Total Liabilities	795,964	815,666	Placements from non-financial institutions and individuals	(10,923)	(148,551)
Profit before impairment allowances and attribution to quasi-equity	10,366	14,519	Quasi-equity			Quasi-equity	(21,816)	125,317
Impairment allowance on financial instruments, net	(1,464)	(2,688)	Financial institutions	35,083	73,261	Net cash (used in) / from operating activities	(62,451)	42,454
Profit before attribution to quasi-equity	8,902	11,831	Non-financial institutions and individuals	768,428	752,066	INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Profit attributable to quasi-equity	(5,722)	(1,829)	Total Quasi-equity	803,511	825,327	Purchase of property and equipment	(698)	(355)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	3,180	10,002	Owners' Equity			Purchase of investment securities	(27,403)	(20,929)
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (fil)	3.01	9.48	Share capital	106,406	106,406	Disposal of investment securities	2,524	41,169
			Treasury shares	(677)	(677)	Net cash (used in) / from investing activities	(25,577)	19,885
			Shares under employee share incentive scheme	(50)	(245)	FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
			Share premium	197	132	Proceeds from financing from financial institutions	20,782	6,790
			Reserves	29,853	32,667	Dividends paid	(5,298)	-
			Equity attributable to Bank's shareholders	135,729	138,283	Net cash from financing activities	15,484	6,790
			Subordinated Mudaraba (AT1)	25,000	25,000	NET (DECREASE) / INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(72,544)	69,129
			Total Owners' Equity	160,729	163,283	Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	314,201	175,629
			TOTAL LIABILITIES, QUASI-EQUITY AND OWNERS' EQUITY	1,760,204	1,804,276	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 MARCH	241,657	244,758
						Cash and cash equivalents comprise:		
						Cash on hand	5,935	9,881
						Balances with CBB, excluding mandatory reserve deposits	761	578
						Balances with banks and other financial institutions excluding restricted balances	8,718	14,942
						Placements with financial institutions with original maturities less than 90 days	226,243	219,357
						Total	241,657	244,758

The condensed consolidated interim financial information was approved by the Board of Directors on 5 May 2026 and has been reviewed by KPMG.

Zaid Khalid Abdulrahman Chairman	Usman Ahmed Vice Chairman	Fatema AlAlawi Chief Executive Officer
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Iran Nobel winner Mohammadi 'between life and death': supporters

AFP | Paris, France

Jailed Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi is fighting for her life after being hospitalised under guard for the last five days with a heart condition, her supporters said on Tuesday.

"We are not just fighting for the freedom of Narges, we are fighting so that her heart continues to beat," said her Paris-based lawyer Chirinne Ardakani at a news conference of her supporters, adding that the 2023 laureate was now "between life and death".



Ukraine to observe own truce with Russia starting May 6, Zelensky says

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukraine will observe its own truce with Russia starting May 6, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday, after Moscow declared a unilateral truce with Ukraine over the May 9 Russian holiday.

"As of today, there has been no official appeal to Ukraine regarding the modality of a cessation of hostilities that is being claimed on Russian social media," Zelensky said in a post on X.

"In this regard, we are announcing a ceasefire regime starting at 00:00 (2100 GMT) on the night of May 5-6. In the time left until that moment, it is realistic to ensure that silence takes effect," he added.

Iran-FIFA meet

FIFA has invited the Iranian football federation (FFIRI) to its headquarters for talks over the country's participation at this year's World Cup, a source told AFP.

Iran's presence at the tournament, held in the United States, Canada and Mexico between June 11 and July 19, has been shrouded in uncertainty since the war erupted.



People cycle past a humanoid robot police officer in Hangzhou, in China's eastern Zhejiang province on the third day of a five-day national May Day holiday. The tech hub's traffic police deployed 15 humanoid robots in total to bolster their ranks on May 1.

Race to find port for cruise ship battling deadly rodent virus

● WHO tracing over 80 people on flight taken by hantavirus victim

AFP | Praia, Cape Verde

Health authorities raced yesterday to find a port for a cruise ship battling a hantavirus outbreak, as it remained off the West African coast with passengers isolating after three people died.

The World Health Organization said the MV Hondius could head from Cape Verde to Spain's Canary Islands, though Spanish authorities said they wanted

A general view of the cruise ship MV Hondius stationary off the port of Praia, the capital of Cape Verde

health data from the expedition vessel before opening up a port.

The ship had been on an adventure cruise from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cape Verde off west Africa. It has been at the centre of an international alert since Saturday after it was revealed that the rare disease -- spread from infected rodents typically through urine, droppings and saliva -- was suspected in three deaths.

The priority now is to evacuate two sick crew members who require urgent care -- potentially to the Netherlands -- and "then the ship can move", WHO epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention director Maria Van Kerkhove said in Geneva.

So far, two hantavirus cases have been confirmed.



Ceasefire on brink

US threatens 'devastating' response to any Iran attack on shipping

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States is "not looking for a fight" over the Strait of Hormuz and its ceasefire with Iran still holds, but any attack on commercial shipping will be met with a "devastating" response, the Pentagon chief said yesterday.

The warning from Pete Hegseth came on the second day of a US effort to facilitate the transit of commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran had closed in response to the US-Israeli war against the Islamic republic.

Top US military officer General Dan Caine meanwhile said US forces are ready to resume major combat operations against Iran if ordered to do so.

"No adversary should

"We're not looking for a fight. But Iran also cannot be allowed to block innocent countries and their goods from an international waterway. If you attack American troops or innocent commercial shipping, you will face overwhelming and devastating American firepower"

PETE HEGSETH

mistake our current restraint with a lack of resolve," said Caine, who spoke alongside Hegseth.

Admiral Brad Cooper, the commander responsible for US troops in the Middle East, said Monday that Washington's forces had intercepted missiles and drones fired by

Iran and also destroyed six small Iranian boats that threatened shipping.

But both Caine and Hegseth downplayed those hostilities, with the general describing it as "low harassing fire" and the Pentagon chief saying that "right now, the ceasefire certainly holds."

US and Israeli forces

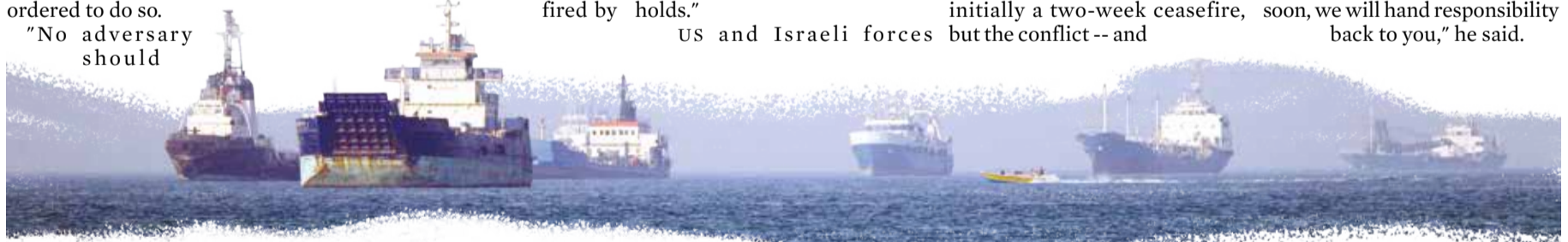


its widespread economic fallout -- remains unresolved.

Caine said there are currently "22,500 mariners embarked on more than 1,550 commercial vessels trapped in the Arabian Gulf, unable to transit."

Cooper said Monday that the United States is not directly escorting ships but rather had cleared a safe path through the Strait of Hormuz and then put in place multi-layered defenses including ships, aircraft and electronic warfare to respond to any threats. Hegseth made clear in his remarks that the operation will not be open-ended.

"We're stabilizing the situation so commerce can flow again, but we expect the world to step up. At the appropriate time, and soon, we will hand responsibility back to you," he said.



Vessels are pictured anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas in southern Iran

France's Macron to speak with Iran president

AFP | Yerevan, Armenia

French President Emmanuel Macron will speak with his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian later on Tuesday, as he pushed for Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

"I will be speaking with the Iranian president shortly," Macron told reporters at a press

conference in Yerevan, adding that France had long advocated for "the restoration of freedom of navigation" in the vital waterway.



Trump calls Iran war a 'little skirmish'

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump yesterday sought to minimize the war with Iran, calling it "a little skirmish."

"We're in a little skirmish military. I call it a skirmish, because Iran has no chance. They never did. They know it," Trump said during an Oval Office event on physical fitness among American kids.

Trump often touts the conflict as a resounding success, insisting for example that Iran's navy has been destroyed.

He sometimes openly calls it a war but more often tries to minimize it because the war is unpopular at home.

On Monday he called it a "mini-war." And last month he described US military operations against Iran as "a little excursion."

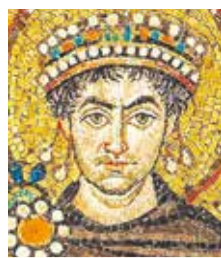
Urges Iran to 'do the smart thing'

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump urged Iran yesterday to "do the smart thing" and make a deal, saying even as a Middle East ceasefire teetered that he did not want to kill more Iranians. "They should do the smart thing, because we don't want to go in and kill people. Really don't," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office when asked about Iran. "I don't want to, it's too tough."

Scholars estimate for the crucifixion of Jesus by Roman troops in Jerusalem [or April 3]

First draft of Corpus Juris Civilis or the Justinian Code (a fundamental work in jurisprudence) is issued by Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I



World Health Organization is formed by the United Nations

The Internet's symbolic birth date: publication of RFC 1

Suu Kyi's son urges Myanmar to provide 'proof of life'



AFP | Paris, France

The son of Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday demanded France's help in seeking independently verified proof of his mother's life after she was transferred to house arrest, her lawyers said. The country's junta chief-turned-president Min Aung Hlaing on Thursday ordered the 80-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner to be moved, five years after putting her into detention in a coup. But her son, Kim Aris, says he has still not heard from his mother, who remains massively popular inside Myanmar.

China fireworks factory explosion kills 26, injures 61



Firefighters spray water at the scene of a fireworks factory explosion in Liuyang, in China's central Hunan province

AFP | Beijing, China

The death toll from a giant explosion at a fireworks factory in central China rose to 26, with 61 more injured, officials said yesterday.

The explosion occurred at around 4:43 pm on Monday at the Liuyang Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Company in Liuyang, Hunan province, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Following the blast, all fireworks makers in Hunan's provincial capital Changsha,

which administers Liuyang, had been ordered to stop production ahead of safety inspections, CCTV said.

Videos on social media from Monday showed continuous explosions accompanied by a vast cloud of smoke rising high into the air in a rural area surrounded by mountains.

Drone footage from CCTV taken a day later showed a swathe of smouldering debris where buildings had stood, with rescue workers and excavators scouring the rubble.

Judge orders German car-ramming suspect to psychiatric hospital

AFP | Leipzig, Germany

A man suspected of ploughing a car into a crowd in the German city of Leipzig, killing two people, was ordered into a psychiatric hospital by a judge yesterday.

The judge found "compelling reasons" to believe that the 33-year-old suspect carried out the attack "in a state of at least significantly diminished responsibility", prosecutors in Leipzig said in a statement.

The German national allegedly drove the vehicle Monday at high speed down a main street in the historic centre of the eastern city, leaving two people dead and several others wounded.

WIDE ANGLE

Two British Kings. One Timeless Message



JOEL INDRUPATI

The King's Speech, an Oscar-winning historical drama from 2011, showed King George VI's struggles with his speech impediment. His severe stammer and his painful efforts to overcome it revealed his human side, making him relatable.

When his elder brother abdicated the throne of the United Kingdom, George VI was suddenly thrust into the forefront. Then came the outbreak of World War II. And at a moment when his nation—and much of the world—needed reassurance, he faced a daunting question: how could he speak?

The rapidly-evolving technology of radio only heightened his stress. For a man who had never sought the throne, the weight of a planet-spanning empire must have seemed overwhelming. The realization that his individual voice would have a global impact must have felt unnerving.

Yet he accepted his role. After long and tiresome training, under his tough and unconventional speech therapist, he became prepared. And he delivered his first wartime broadcast on September 3, 1939.

That address has become historic. It is now remembered for its powerful opening: "In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history..."

It underscored Britain's efforts to seek peace, and its reluctant but firm decision to go to war in defense of freedom. Broadcast by the BBC, his voice reached audiences across the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India, and many other colonies and dominions of the then British empire.

Now, fast-forward to April 2026. His grandson, King Charles III delivered a speech which also became historic. It went around the globe.

Addressing the U.S. Congress at the United States Capitol, his words resonated not just in the chamber but across the world in real time—amplified by television and social media.

We must understand the moment. It was delicate. It was sensitive. Political tensions had strained U.S.-UK relations, particularly over Britain's decision not to engage in the Iran conflict.

Now described as a high-stakes diplomatic moment, this speech balanced candour with tact. With touches of humour, it carried the weight of the times—calling for unity, reaffirming democratic values, supporting Ukraine, and strengthening NATO in what the king had termed a "volatile world."

The audience response was striking: twelve standing ovations from the US Congress. His speech was diplomacy in action. It skillfully navigated disagreement while reaffirming the enduring bond between the two nations—even 250 years after American independence. It acknowledged differences, yet emphasized shared responsibility. Especially, in safeguarding democracy, global security, and the environment.

King George VI's 1939 address was a call for unity, calm, and resolve in the face of a brutal war—against what he described as the "primitive doctrine that might is right." Today, King Charles III echoes that spirit, urging renewed partnership and collective responsibility in an equally uncertain world.

The contexts differ, but the core message remains unchanged. Then, as now, the world stands at uneasy crossroads. Then, as now, the answer lies not in division, but in unity—tempered by calm, guided by wisdom, and anchored in a genuine desire for peace.

For history reminds us of a simple truth: when leaders rise above fear and ambition, and speak not just to power but to conscience, their words can steady nations.

And then perhaps, geopolitical structures will see less populism and ego, and more understanding and dialogue (The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

King George VI's 1939 address was a call for unity, calm, and resolve in the face of a brutal war—against what he described as the "primitive doctrine that might is right."

US combat ready

Israel ready to deploy 'entire air force' against Iran if needed: new chief

The warnings came after Iran's chief negotiator said Tehran "had not even started yet" in the crucial trade route, after a spate of attacks by both sides on Monday threatened to reignite the Middle East war.

US Central Command "and the rest of the joint force remain ready to resume major combat operations against Iran if ordered to do so. No adversary should mistake our current restraint with a lack of resolve"

GENERAL DAN CAINE



● Iran denied any of its combat ships had been hit in US attacks but accused Washington of killing five civilian passengers on boats.

● Denmark's freight giant Maersk said yesterday that one of its ships had successfully sailed through the Hormuz under US escort.

These attacks are unacceptable. Security in the (Gulf) region has direct consequences for Europe".

EU CHIEF URSULA VON DER LEYEN



Return to the negotiating table and stop holding the region and the world hostage

GERMAN CHANCELLOR FRIEDRICH MERZ



South Korea to review joining US Hormuz operation

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

South Korea said Tuesday it will "review its position" on joining US operations in the Strait of Hormuz after President Donald Trump urged Seoul to take part following an apparent Iranian attack on one of its ships.

South Korea's foreign ministry said Tuesday that all 24 crew members aboard the stricken HMM Namu -- including six South Korean nationals -- were unharmed.

Trump said the incident should prompt South Korea to join American efforts to guide stranded ships through the strait. On Tuesday, South Korea's defence ministry said it would "carefully review our position", but did not commit to any change. It added that it had been "actively participating in international discussions on cooperation to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz".

Britain calls for de-escalation

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer called for de-escalation in the Middle East after the United Arab Emirates reported attacks for the first time since a truce was declared nearly a month ago.

Iran-China talks

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will travel to Beijing on Tuesday for talks, the foreign ministry said, amid stalled negotiations with the United States.

India condemns drone strike on UAE, urges Hormuz access

AFP | New Delhi, India

India condemned a drone strike on an energy facility in Fujairah in which three Indians were injured, urging uninterrupted access to the Strait of Hormuz, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

Iranian state TV said the Islamic republic had "no pre-planned programme" to attack oil facilities in the UAE.

"We call for immediate cessation of these hostilities and

the targeting of civilian infrastructure and innocent civilians," India's foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement yesterday.

"We also call for free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the Strait of Hormuz in keeping with international law," Jaiswal added.

"India stands ready to support all efforts for a peaceful resolution of issues."

UK's Labour faces bruising losses in local polls

Millions of people are eligible to cast ballots across Scotland, England and Wales

● Surveys suggest Labour will lose control of the devolved Welsh government in Cardiff for the first time since the country got its own parliament 27 years ago

● Britain's ruling party is also fearful of a humiliating result in Scotland

AFP | London, United Kingdom

British voters head to the polls tomorrow for local elections set to pile more misery on unpopular Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer and cement the rise of right- and left-wing populists.

Millions of people are eligible to cast ballots across Scotland, England and Wales, in Starmer's biggest ballot-box test since winning the July 2024 general election by a landslide.

Surveys predict dire results for Labour, which is likely to accelerate talk of a leadership challenge, although no obvious successor exists.

The hard-right Reform UK party of Nigel Farage and the left-wing Greens, headed by self-described eco-populist Zack Polanski, are expected to make gains as voters turn away

UK LOCAL & REGIONAL ELECTIONS Constituencies at stake on May 7

More than 5,000 representatives will be elected across three levels of local and regional government



from establishment parties.

"It's partly to do with the government making some unpopular decisions early on in its term and its leader, a hopeless communicator, failing to convey a sufficient sense of change," said political scientist Tim Bale.

"And it's partly to do with an electorate that simply has less patience and less party loyalty than ever," the professor of poli-

tics at Queen Mary University of London told AFP.

Surveys suggest Labour will lose control of the devolved Welsh government in Cardiff for the first time since the country got its own parliament 27 years ago.

A YouGov poll published earlier this month showed Reform neck-and-neck with pro-independence Plaid Cymru.

Losing power in Wales would be "disastrous" for Starmer's party, according to Laura McAllister, a politics professor at Cardiff University.

"I think it will take quite some renewal for Labour to get over that," she told AFP.

Britain's ruling party is also fearful of a humiliating result in Scotland, where voters will elect members of the 129-seat devolved Scottish parliament.

When Starmer entered Downing Street on a wave of enthusiasm two years ago, Labour was confident it could regain power north of the border for the first time since 2007.

'Least-worst option'

But surveys now suggest the Scottish National Party (SNP) will extend its 19-year grip on the administration in Edinburgh, with a YouGov poll suggesting Reform could beat Labour to second place.

In England, pollster Robert Hayward has predicted Labour could lose about 1,850 of the roughly 2,550 local authority seats it is defending.

Some 5,000 council seats are up for grabs across the country.

Hayward has tipped Reform to gain some 1,550 seats from Labour and Kemi Badenoch's right-wing Conservatives -- mostly in white, working-class areas.

The Greens are expected to gain hundreds of councillors at

Labour's expense, particularly in London, with a pro-Gaza message.

Starmer has swerved from one misstep to another since ending 14 years of consecutive Tory rule, and is currently engulfed in a scandal over sacked US envoy Peter Mandelson.

He has failed to spur economic growth as British residents continue to feel the effects of a years-long cost-of-living pinch, but has been praised for resisting US President Donald Trump over Iran.

The Greens and Reform "are proposing eye-catching, even if some would say simplistic, solutions to problems that Labour and the Conservatives have struggled to resolve", said Bale.

The media is awash with rumours that former cabinet ministers might try to oust Starmer if the results are bad, but any challenger would need to be nominated by 20 percent of the party's MPs.

"I'm betting he will stumble on as the current least-worst option but it's not a pretty sight," professor Steven Fielding, a Labour expert at Nottingham University, told AFP.

The Times newspaper reported Tuesday that several Labour lawmakers were planning to publish an open letter demanding that Starmer set a date for his resignation if the results were bad.

Trump says he works out 'one minute a day' as he restores fitness award

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday his exercise routine lasts at most a minute a day, as he signed an order to bring back a presidential fitness award for children.

Speculation has swirled about the health of Trump -- who was the oldest president ever inaugurated when he returned to power last year, and who turns 80 next month.

"I work out so much, like, about one minute a day, max. If

I'm lucky," Trump said before signing the proclamation in the Oval Office.

Trump also joked about his lack of exercise with Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr, who told a story about his father Robert F. Kennedy going on a 50-mile hike.

RFK Jr. said it would be a "breeze" for keen golfer Trump to do the same as "this guy walks nine miles a day on a golf course every weekend."

"When I'm not using the cart," Trump, who has frequent-

ly been pictured in a golf buggy, added in a mock-dramatic aside.

Golfers Gary Player and Bryson DeChambeau were with Trump for the signing of the order, which brings back the so-called Presidential Fitness Test award for schools.

Several school children were also alongside Trump as he cycled through a series of topics including graphic descriptions of protest deaths in Iran.

The president patted

one student on the arm and asked if he was a "strong person," to which the boy replied "yes, sir."

"You think you could take me in a fight?" Trump then said, before adding with a chuckle: "I think you could."

Republican Trump likes to boast about his physical prowess compared with his Demo-

cratic predecessor Joe Biden, who dropped out of the 2024 election race due to concerns over his age.

But while Trump keeps up a busy schedule there has been speculation about his health, in particular over bruising to his hands, swelling in his legs and several apparent moments of dozing off in public.

The White House says Trump's leg swelling is caused by a vein issue while the bruising is due to his enthusiastic consumption of aspirin.



India approves \$27 bn credit guarantee to help businesses ride out ME war

New Delhi, India

The Indian government approved a \$27.3 billion credit guarantee scheme on Tuesday to help businesses survive short-term cash problems caused by the Middle East war, including airlines hit by surging fuel prices.

The scheme is intended to help businesses get access to loans until March next year so they can ride out the crisis, prevent layoffs and avoid an economic slowdown.

"The proposed credit guarantee scheme is a major step to help businesses... and the airline sector, to ensure their additional working capital needs," a government statement said.

"It will also promote uninterrupted domestic production and maintain the resilience of the ecosystem," it said.

The proposal was approved by a meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet on Tuesday.

The credit line will operate for five years for most businesses and seven years for airlines, the statement said.

Most of the credit guarantee, \$26.79 billion, is intended for a wide range of businesses. Another \$525 million is also set aside for airlines, many of which have cut domestic and international flights in recent weeks because of rising aviation fuel prices.

Armed man shot by US Secret Service near White House

Washington, United States



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Quinn told reporters he did not believe that the vice president was an intended target and said he could not speculate if it was related to recent attempts on the life of President Donald Trump.

"I'm not going to guess on that," he said. "Whether or not it was directed to the president or not, I don't know, but we will find out."

Quinn said the shooting took place after Secret Service agents identified a "suspicious individual," who appeared to have a firearm.

The man fled on foot after being approached by the officers, drew his weapon and opened fire, Quinn said.

Blake Lively, Justin Baldoni agree to end lengthy legal battle

AFP | New York, United States

Actor Blake Lively and "It Ends with Us" co-star Justin Baldoni on Monday settled their acrimonious years-long legal battle, avoiding a costly civil trial.

A joint statement provided to AFP said the parties had resolved their dispute -- launched after Lively accused Baldoni of inappropriate on-set behavior -- without disclosing any settlement figure.

Live-

Justin Baldoni

ly's initial complaint had said Baldoni -- who also directed the film -- had spoken inappropriately about his sex life and sought to alter the film to include sex scenes that were not in the script and had not been agreed to.

It also said producer Jamey Heath had watched Lively while she was topless, despite having been asked to turn away. It further said Baldoni waged a PR campaign to wreck Lively's reputation.

"The end product -- the movie 'It Ends with Us' -- is a source of pride to all of us who worked to bring it to life," Baldoni and Lively's at-

torneys said in a joint statement. "We acknowledge the process presented challenges and recognize concerns raised by Ms. Lively deserved to be heard... It is our sincere hope that this brings closure and allows all involved to move forward con-

structively and in peace."

Hours after the announcement that the case was settled, Lively was all smiles as she unexpectedly appeared at the Met Gala in New York in a full ball gown that erupted in a cloud of pink, purple and yellow tulle.

Baldoni and the studio Wayfarer had previously counter-sued Lively and her husband Blake Lively attends the 2026 Met Gala celebrating "Costume Art" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on May 04, 2026 in New York City

Blake Lively attends the 2026 Met Gala celebrating "Costume Art" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on May 04, 2026 in New York City

Based on a best-selling novel by the US writer Colleen Hoover, "It Ends with Us" made more than \$350 million at the box office in 2024, making it one of the biggest hits of the year.

Wayfarer previously insisted that neither the studio, its executives, nor its PR team did anything to retaliate against Lively. A judge dismissed some of Lively's claims, but upheld her allegations of retaliation, which would have proceeded to trial on May 18.

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Quinn told reporters he did not believe that the vice president was an intended target and said he could not speculate if it was related to recent attempts on the life of President Donald Trump.

"I'm not going to guess on that," he said. "Whether or not it was directed to the president or not, I don't know, but we will find out."

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The man fled on foot after being approached by the officers, drew his weapon and opened fire, Quinn said.



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Gulf EU Alliance

Iran attacks strongly condemned



A delegation of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) reaffirmed strong support for Gulf states following visits to Riyadh and Manama on May 3 and 4, underscoring the growing importance of ties between the European Union and the Gulf region.

The seven-member delegation held high-level talks in Saudi Arabia with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir and Shura Council Vice Speaker Mishaal Al-Sulami. In Bahrain, the delegation held meetings with Foreign Minister Abdulatif Al Zayani, Shura Council Chairman Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, and Council of Repre-

sentatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musallam. The delegation also met Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jassem Al Budaiwi.

During the visit, MEPs strongly condemned what they described as indiscriminate attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council states, stressing that stability in the region requires a comprehensive approach beyond any ceasefire. They said a lasting resolution must address Iran's nuclear programme, as well as its ballistic missile and drone capabilities and its role in regional conflicts through proxy groups.

The delegation also highlighted the urgent need to ensure safe and uninterrupted

navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, calling it vital for global energy security and trade.

In both capitals, MEPs reiterated the European Union's commitment to strengthening its strategic partnership with Gulf countries. Key areas of cooperation include energy transition, digital transformation, transport connectivity, security, and clean technologies.

"This visit sends an unambiguous message: the European Union stands unreservedly in solidarity with the people of the Gulf," said delegation head Reinhold Lopatka, adding that parliamentary diplomacy plays a crucial role in reinforcing ties during times of crisis.

"Impregnable Fortress"

UAE military lauded for 50 years of service and sacrifice

The UAE marked the 50th anniversary of the unification of its Armed Forces. Leaders praised five decades of military service and expressed solidarity amid regional tensions, according to official statements.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, said the decision to unify the Armed Forces marked the beginning of building "the nation's shield and decisive sword" and a foundation for security and stability.

In a speech marking the occasion, Shaikh Mohammed praised the Armed Forces' "honourable national roles" and the sacrifices of its personnel over five decades, saying they had "raised the name of the UAE high" and formed "an impregnable fortress" protecting the country's pride and dignity.

He reflected on his early involvement in the formation of the forces, recalling "memories of preparation" for the unification decision and the subsequent development of the military over the past 50 years.

Separately, UAE President Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan received a phone call from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. During the call, El-Sisi condemned what he



"The decision to unify the Armed Forces marked the beginning of building the nation's shield and decisive sword – a foundation for security and stability."

described as Iranian "terrorist attacks" targeting civilians and civilian sites in the UAE.

El-Sisi said the attacks constituted a violation of sovereignty, international law and the UN Charter, and posed a threat to regional security and stability, according to the statement.

He also affirmed Egypt's solidarity with the UAE and support for all measures Abu Dhabi takes to protect its sovereignty, security and the safety of its population.

Khartoum Airport Attack Condemned

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, strongly condemned a drone attack that targeted at least three strategic sites in Sudan's Khartoum State, including Khartoum International Airport, describing it as a serious escalation threatening regional stability.

In a statement on Monday, Aboul Gheit said the use of unmanned aerial vehicles against civilian facilities and critical infrastructure—reportedly launched from outside Sudanese territory—represents a "dangerous escalation" that further worsens the country's humanitarian and security crisis.



His spokesperson, Gamal Roshdy, said the Secretary-General reaffirmed the League's full support for Sudan in preserving its security, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity, as well as protecting its national institutions and infrastructure.

The Arab League warned that such attacks risk widening the

conflict and undermining Arab, African, and international efforts aimed at de-escalation and a Sudanese-led political process.

The statement also urged all parties to avoid actions that could obstruct ongoing diplomatic efforts, including attempts to secure a comprehensive ceasefire, revive the Jeddah peace process, and advance an inclusive civilian dialogue.

Sudan has been gripped by conflict since April 2023, with repeated warnings from regional and international actors over the war's expanding impact across the region.

Gulf cooperation talks held in Kuwait

Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, at Bayan Palace on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed issues related to joint Gulf cooperation and ongoing efforts to advance the work of the six-member bloc, according to a statement.

The discussions focused on initiatives aimed at strengthening the GCC's progress in line with the directives of the leaders of member states, with an emphasis on achieving greater prosperity, stability, and development across the region.

The meeting comes amid



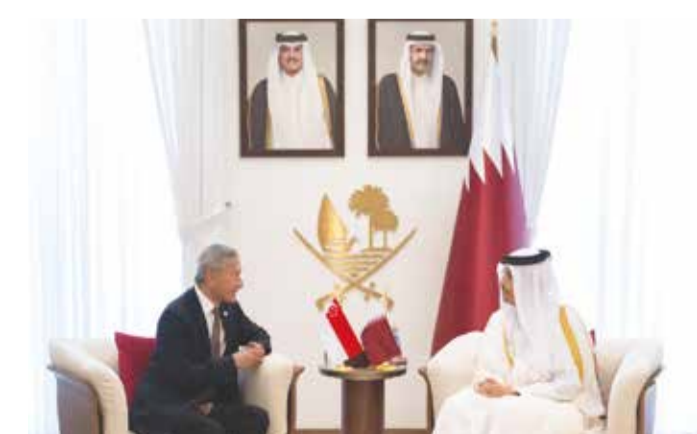
continued coordination among GCC, which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Doha, Singapore discuss US-Iran ceasefire

Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani held talks on Monday with Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, focusing on strengthening bilateral ties and regional developments, according to an official statement.

During the meeting in Doha, the two sides reviewed "strategic cooperation relations" between Qatar and Singapore and discussed ways to expand collaboration across various sectors, including diplomacy and economic engagement.

The discussions also touched on regional security, focusing particularly on the ceasefire



between the United States and Iran. Both ministers underscored the importance of continued efforts to reduce tensions and support stability in the Middle East.

Singapore's foreign minister is currently visiting Qatar officially as part of broader diplomatic engagements aimed at enhancing ties between the two countries.

Palestine Talks Intensify

Senior Arab League officials met on Tuesday to discuss developments in the Arab region, focusing particularly on the Palestinian issue amid ongoing tensions.

Assistant Secretary-General and head of the Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories sector, Ambassador Dr. Faid Mustafa, received Palestine's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Muhannad Al-Aklouk, at the League's headquarters.

Talks centered on the latest political developments and the humanitarian situation facing Palestinians, as Israeli attacks continue in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occu-



piated East Jerusalem. The two sides also reviewed ways to strengthen coordination and consultation between Palestine's delegation and the Arab League's relevant sector, aiming to enhance cooperation on key issues of mutual concern, foremost among them the Palestinian cause.

CAMPUS

ASU Hosts Global Tech Meet

Manama

Applied Science University is set to host the International Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainability and Intelligent Systems (ICETSYS 2026) on 6–7 May 2026, bringing together a distinguished and multidisciplinary international community of academics, researchers, and industry experts from around the world.

This upcoming edition builds on the success of the inaugural conference held on 2022, further establishing ICETSYS as a high-level scientific platform for knowledge exchange and the presentation of cutting-edge research in emerging technologies, intelligent systems, and sustainable development.

The conference aims to provide an interdisciplinary academic platform that enables researchers to exchange expertise and explore the latest innovations and future trends. Key focus areas will include artificial intelligence and its applications in information systems and data science, communication and network technologies, digital learning, financial technologies, as well as innovation in architecture and civil engineering to



support sustainability-driven solutions.

ICETSYS 2026 is expected to witness strong international engagement, with participation from over 1,000 researchers representing more than 30 countries. This reflects both the high scientific quality of the conference and the growing global interest in its thematic areas. The geographical distribution of contributors highlights a truly global reach, with the majority of contributions originating from the Asia-Pacific region, followed by Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

The conference will feature a rigorous peer-review process

oversen by the Technical Program Committee and supported by a wide network of international reviewers. This ensures the selection of high-quality research contributions and reinforces the academic integrity and credibility of the conference.

This year's conference will be delivered in a hybrid format, combining in-person and virtual participation, thereby maximising international accessibility and fostering cross-border scientific collaboration.

On this occasion, Professor Waheeb Al Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, emphasised that hosting this interna-

tional conference reflects the University's vision to promote innovation and strengthen the role of research in serving society. He noted that "the University is committed to providing a stimulating academic environment that supports knowledge creation and the development of sustainable solutions to global challenges, in alignment with the Kingdom of Bahrain's ambitious development vision."

For his part, Professor Hatem Masri, President of the University, highlighted the strategic importance of the conference in strengthening international academic partnerships. He stated that "organising this scientific event demonstrates the University's commitment to keeping pace with rapid developments in emerging technologies, while providing an interactive platform for knowledge exchange and building collaborative networks among researchers worldwide."

It is worth noting that the conference proceedings will be published in globally recognised indexing platforms such as IEEE Xplore, further enhancing the visibility, impact, and academic value of the research presented.

Student from NMS Bahrain Shines on Global Platform with TED-Ed Talk

Manama

The New Millennium School, Bahrain, proudly celebrates the remarkable achievement of its student, Jaahnavi Jia, whose TED-style talk titled "RELAXATION – Welcome to the World of Rubber Bands" has been selected for publication on the TED-Ed Student Talks Official YouTube Channel.

The talk was submitted as part of the prestigious Great Ideas Quest, a global platform that encourages young minds to explore, innovate, and share powerful ideas. Jaahnavi's presentation creatively draws parallels between the elasticity of rubber bands and the importance of relaxation and resilience in managing life's pressures. Her insightful narrative and engaging delivery impressed evaluators, earning her a place on the internationally recognized TED-Ed platform.

This accomplishment highlights not only Jaahnavi's exceptional communication and critical thinking skills but also reflects the school's commitment to nurturing creativity, confidence, and global perspectives among its students.

Principal Dr Arun Kumar Sharma expressed immense pride, stating that Jaahnavi's achievement is a testament to



Jaahnavi Jia

the power of young voices and reflects the depth of thought NMS strives to cultivate in its students. He congratulated Jaahnavi, her proud parents along with the TED-Ed Teacher In-Charge, Ms. Manisha Nair and Student mentor Master Sagar Asnani, who supported her in this journey to excellence.

Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai also lauded the achievement, saying that NMS believes in empowering students to think beyond textbooks and express ideas that can inspire change.

The New Millennium School continues to encourage its students to participate in global initiatives that foster innovation, creativity, and leadership, preparing them to become confident contributors to the world.

Nurturing Responsible Futures through Water Stewardship at BIS

Manama

In alignment with the CBSE circular on the observance of Jal Pakhwada (16th–30th April 2026) and the nationwide mission to promote water conservation and sustainability, Bhavans Bahrain Indian School (BIS) conducted an extensive series of awareness and engagement programmes aimed at nurturing environmental responsibility among students, staff, and the wider community.

The fortnight-long observance commenced with a solemn and inspiring Jal Shapath (Water Pledge) ceremony in which students, teachers, and staff collectively pledged to conserve water and promote responsible water usage in their homes, school, and society. The programme emphasized the importance of protecting water resources and encouraged stu-



dents to become ambassadors of sustainable living.

The two week-long observances featured a diverse range of student-centered engagements, including poster-making, slogan writing, storytelling, Save Water campaigns, seminars, quizzes, debates, model making and presentations. These activities provided students with creative and intellectual platforms

to reflect on their daily water usage and to propose meaningful solutions for conservation.

The programme culminated in a recognition ceremony appreciating the enthusiastic participation of students, teachers, and staff in the various competitions and awareness drives conducted during the Jal Pakhwada fortnight.

Directors Mr Himanshu Ver-



ma and Mrs Ritu Verma emphasized the importance of such initiatives, stating, "Educating young minds about water conservation is not just an academic exercise, it is a moral responsibility. At BIS, we equip students to become changemakers for a sustainable future."

BIS Students Mark Labour Day with Purposeful Outreach

Manama

On Labour Day, Bhavans Bahrain Indian School (BIS) embraced experiential learning by taking student leaders—Head Boy, Head Girl, Vice Heads, the Vice Captain of the Discipline Committee, along with staff—to a labour camp. Through the distribution of gifts, students expressed heartfelt gratitude and connected meaningfully with the community.

Students also spent time interacting with workers from engineering sites, listening to their experiences and sharing conversations that built mutual respect and understanding.



This initiative helped students understand the dignity of labour and the importance of respecting every profession. It encouraged them to value the

hard work and contributions of workers from all walks of life, fostering humility, empathy, and inclusivity.

By recognising that every role

in society is essential and deserves respect, BIS continues to nurture socially responsible, compassionate, and grounded individuals.

RCSI Medical University of Bahrain Congratulates Professor Manaf Alqahtani Following Gulf Health Council Appointment



Manama

The Vice Chancellor of RCSI in Dublin, Professor Cathal Kelly, and President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) - Medical University of Bahrain, Professor Sameer Otoom, hosted Professor Manaf Alqahtani on campus to extend sincere congratulations on his new appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Disease Prevention and Control at the General Secretariat of the Gulf Health Council.

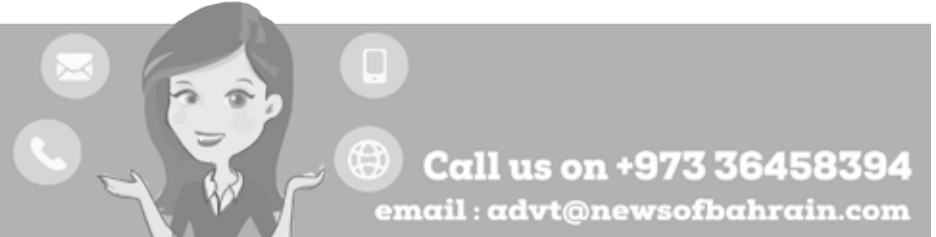
Professor Alqahtani's distinguished nomination reflects his remarkable career in advanced microbiology and infectious diseases, contribu-

tions to laboratory integration, public health systems, global advisory work and leadership roles in Bahrain and beyond.

The University is especially grateful for Professor Alqahtani's 16 years of academic service at RCSI Medical University of Bahrain, where he founded the Department of Microbiology and advanced undergraduate education and research. He also contributed to medical specialty training at national level with the launch of the National Fellowship in Infectious Diseases in 2024.

We look forward to our continued collaboration, and we wish Professor Alqahtani the best of success in his new role.

Classifieds



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Bayern, PSG set for European classic

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Eight days after a chaotic first leg in Paris, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain meet again tonight at the Allianz Arena (10 PM Bahrain time) with a place in the Champions League final at stake.

The first leg at the Parc des Princes ended 5-4 to PSG, the highest-scoring Champions League semi-final in history. It was a relentless, end-to-end contest defined by transition football, attacking brilliance, and defensive vulnerability on both sides. Ousmane Dembélé, Désiré Doué, and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia repeatedly exploited Bayern's high line as PSG surged into a 5-2 lead.

Bayern, though, refused to collapse. A late rally brought a flurry of their own goals, dramatically altering the tone of the tie and leaving everything to play for in Germany. Still, conceding five goals for the first time in over 30 years of European competition underlines the scale of their defensive concerns.

Vincent Kompany returns



Ousmane Dembélé celebrates after scoring in the first leg

to the touchline after suspension and has doubled down on his aggressive philosophy. He insists the Bavarians will not abandon the high-risk style that defines them. History is not on their side, though, with Bayern progressing from just one of their last ten European ties after losing the first leg.

Recent form adds another layer of uncertainty. A 3-3

draw with Heidenheim once again exposed defensive fragility, despite continued attacking output from Harry Kane and Michael Olise. Meanwhile, the French side are in strong away form under Luis Enrique, unbeaten in six on the road and having kept five consecutive clean sheets.

Both teams rotated over the weekend to ensure their key

players are physically primed for the decider. PSG carry a one-goal advantage, but Bayern's home aggression promises an open contest, with the hosts forced to chase the game while PSG look to control the tempo and protect their lead. All signs point to another compelling spectacle for the fans and another Champions League classic in the making.

Chelsea's Champions League hopes fade away



Chelsea's players react in disappointment after conceding a goal

TDT | Manama

Chelsea's hopes of returning to the UEFA Champions League are effectively over after a 3-1 home defeat to Nottingham Forest, a result that highlights their decline this season.

The loss was their sixth consecutive defeat in the Premier League, leaving them ninth and 10 points adrift of the top five with only three matches remaining. João Pedro's late overhead kick briefly lifted the atmosphere at Stamford Bridge, but frustration from supporters was evident at full time.

The club is currently without a permanent manager following the departure of Liam Rosenior, with Calum McFarlane in interim charge. However, the issues run deeper than coaching instability, with Chelsea struggling for consistency, cohesion and con-

fidence throughout the squad.

Pundits have been critical of their performances. Jamie Carragher described Chelsea as a "broken club", while Mark Schwarzer questioned the players' commitment during their recent poor run.

Missing out on the Champions League would be a major financial setback for the Blues. It would significantly reduce income from prize money, broadcasting, and commercial deals, especially as the club has already invested heavily in the squad. Since the BlueCo takeover, the club has spent over £1.5 billion on signings, but that spending has yet to deliver sustained success.

An FA Cup final still offers a chance of silverware, but Chelsea now face a pivotal summer. Without Champions League football, pressure will intensify on both the squad rebuild and the club's long-term direction.

Injured Mbappe faces backlash over Sardinia trip before Clasico

AFP | Madrid

Sidelined with a hamstring injury, Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe has sparked anger among a section of the club's supporters after a holiday in Sardinia, triggering a fresh media storm ahead of Sunday's Clasico against Barcelona.

For many Madrid fans, the striker's Italian getaway - during rest days granted by Real Madrid to injured players, including Mbappe, Thibaut Courtois and Arda Guler - was the final straw.

United behind a shared image showing Mbappe with a "Fuera (out)" stamp over his face - originally posted by a satirical account and reposted in the comments section of Real Madrid's official posts - some fans are openly calling for the French superstar to leave.

An online petition has also been circulating on social networks, urging Madrid fans to "make their voices heard". "If you believe change is necessary, do not remain silent: sign this petition and defend what you believe is best for the future of the club," it reads.

Fuel was added to the fire by widely shared photos of Mbappe alongside actress Ester Exposito, posted on social media as Real Madrid were preparing for a crucial La Liga match against Espanyol last weekend in an effort to delay Barcelona's title celebrations.



Real Madrid's French forward #10 Kylian Mbappe challenges Alaves' Spanish goalkeeper #01 Antonio Sivera (file photo)

Real Madrid won that match 2-0, and coach Alvaro Arbeloa later insisted that "each player does what they consider appropriate in their free time" and that it was "none of my business". However, several of his comments were perceived as indirect criticism of his leading scorer.

Sweat and mud, not tuxedos

"We didn't build Real Madrid with players who play in tuxedos, but with players who finish

matches with shirts full of sweat and mud, through effort and sacrifice," he said.

Madrid is "a club where, fortunately, no player has ever been, or ever will be bigger than Real Madrid," added Arbeloa.

Contacted by AFP, Mbappe's entourage said "part of the criticism is based on an over-interpretation of elements linked to a recovery period that is strictly supervised by the club", and bears no relation to "the reality of the commitment and

daily work Kylian puts in for the team".

The France captain, accustomed to sometimes excessive scrutiny, addressed his mindset earlier this season on The Bridge, a podcast hosted by his Real Madrid and France teammate Aurelien Tchouameni.

"I've reached a point where you're going to get criticised whatever you do, so you might as well do what you want - at least then you stay true to yourself," Mbappe said.

Isolated in dressing room?

With 41 goals in 41 matches in all competitions this season, Mbappe remains by far Real Madrid's leading scorer. He has nonetheless come under heavy criticism since returning from injury in mid-March, with some observers accusing him of an overly individualistic approach.

According to Spanish media, Mbappe - frustrated by a second season at Madrid without a major trophy - is becoming increasingly isolated in the dressing room, despite having established himself as a leader earlier in the campaign.

Some fans and pundits have pointed to post-match comments from fellow stars Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham after Sunday's win as signs of a growing rift with the France captain.

"We fought and we played together. When we play like that, we are better and stronger," Vinicius told Real Madrid TV, while Bellingham urged his teammates on Instagram to stay "together" and fully committed "until the very last whistle" of the season.

Friendly exchanges between Vinicius and Bellingham on social media - the pair won the Champions League together before Mbappe's arrival - have further fuelled speculation of a new clash of egos within the Madrid squad.

Indian Club to Host Open Badminton Tournament 2026

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Indian Club, Bahrain, has announced the upcoming 'The Indian Club Open Badminton Tournament 2026', scheduled to take place from May 15 to 21 at the Indian Club Arena.

The week-long sporting event will feature a comprehensive lineup of 15 categories, including Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles, and Masters Doubles. The tournament is expected to attract top-tier talent and badminton enthusiasts from across the Kingdom and the wider GCC region.

The event is powered by Guidetech Trading W.L.L. as the Title Sponsor, with Valueline Trading W.L.L. serving as the Main Sponsor. The tournament is further supported by Silver Star Logistics.

Organizers have invited players to showcase their skills and compete for top honors. The registration deadline is set for May 10, 2026.

For registration and further inquiries, interested participants can contact the Club's Badminton Secretary, Mr. Binu Pappachen (+973 39198193), or the Tournament Director, Mr. Anil Koliyadan (+973 37733499).

Bahrain set for GCC volleyball test

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The 4th GCC Games will take place from May 11 to 22, bringing together the six Gulf nations across 19 sports. Among the competitions, the men's volleyball tournament stands out as one of the most competitive, featuring a round-robin format where every match could shape the medal standings.

Bahrain enters the tournament once again as one of the leading contenders. They finished runners-up in the previous edition in Kuwait City in 2022, behind Qatar, with Oman taking bronze.

Their record across the history of the Games further underlines their pedigree: Bahrain won gold in the inaugural 2011 edition on home soil, and repeated the feat in 2015 in Dammam. That consistency keeps them firmly in the title conversation heading into this year.

However, this campaign marks a period of transition. Montenegrin coach Ivan Joksimovic



Bahrain's volleyball squad celebrate a strong showing in a recent tournament

takes charge for his first major tournament, replacing French coach Arnaud Josserand, who

guided Bahrain through one of its most successful modern eras. Under Josserand, Bahrain's rise

included continental and regional success, such as gold at the 2025 AVC Men's Volleyball Na-

tions Cup, bronze at the Islamic Arab Men's Championship title. The key question is whether Joksimovic can maintain that momentum and make his mark, having recently led Dar Kulaib to an unbeaten title in the Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League.

He has selected a 17-player roster drawn from six of Bahrain's leading clubs. The setters are Ali Habib and Mahmood Abdulwahid, while the outside hitters and opposites include Ali Ibrahim, Mohammed Al Khabbaz, Hussain Mansoor, Hassan Al Shakhour, and Sayed Hashim Isa.

In the middle, Bahrain rely on Hassan Ali Al Warqaa, Abbas Abdullah Sultan, Mahmood Al Affia, and Ahmed Sadiq, with Ayman Haroona named as libero. The remaining squad members — Hussain Abdullah Sultan, Hani Al Alawi, Mahmood Abdulhussain, Mohammed Jassim, and Abdullah Mohammed Jaafar — provide additional depth and rotation options.

Bahrain begin their campaign on 16 May against Oman, fol-

lowed immediately by a clash with the United Arab Emirates on 17 May. They then face Kuwait on 19 May, hosts Qatar on May 20, and Saudi Arabia on May 22.

Beyond the GCC Games, expectations remain high. As reigning champions of the 2025 AVC Men's Volleyball Nations Cup, Bahrain will soon shift their attention to the 2026 edition of the tournament in Ahmedabad, India, which begins on 20 June.

For now, however, the focus is firmly on the immediate challenges: adapting quickly to a new coaching philosophy, managing a demanding schedule, and reaffirming their status as one of the Gulf's most consistent volleyball powers.

Elsewhere at the Games, Bahrain's representation extends beyond volleyball, with the Kingdom also competing in handball and 3x3 basketball.

The wider programme features 19 sports in total at the 2026 GCC Games, spanning disciplines such as athletics, swimming, karate, archery, and others.

Crown Prince's Cup semis set for tonight

TDT | Manama

Volleyball action returns tonight at Isa bin Rashid Arena in Riffa with two semi-final encounters in the 2025-26 HRH the Crown Prince's Cup, as the competition edges closer to Saturday's final.

The evening begins at 7pm when league champions Dar Kulaib take on Bani Jamra, before defending cup holders Muharraq face Al Ahli at 8:30pm in a heavyweight showdown.

Dar Kulaib arrive in strong form after cruising into the semi-finals with a dominant 3-0 (25-12, 25-16, 25-17) win over A'ali in the quarter-finals.

The league winners showcased their attacking depth through standout contributions from Enock Mogeni, Ali Habib, Hasan Al Warqaa, Abbas Abdulla, and Ali Mohammed Abdulnabi.

Their powerful start to the tournament has reinforced their status as strong contenders for a title double this season.

Their opponents, Bani Jamra, earned their place in the last four after a hard-fought five-set victory over Nabih Saleh.

In the second semi-final, Mu-



Holders Muharraq celebrate momentum in their quarter-final win over Tadhamun

harraq continue their title defence after a 3-0 win over Al Tadhamun in the last round. The

reigning champions, who lifted last season's trophy after defeating Dar Kulaib, are once again



Dar Kulaib players celebrate a set win during their quarter-final victory over A'ali

eyeing a repeat triumph.

Al Ahli, however, arrive with momentum after edging past Al Najma in a tense quarter-final, winning 3-0 (25-22, 26-24, 30-28). Led by key Bahraini players including Ali Ebrahim, Mahmood Abdulhussain, Has-

san Al Haddad, and Mohammed Habib, alongside Brazilian professional Lucas Madaloz, Ahli showed composure in critical moments to secure their semi-final place.

The winners of tonight's matches will meet in Saturday's

final at Isa bin Rashid Arena. With Dar Kulaib seeking to complete a historic league-and-cup double and Muharraq aiming to retain their crown, the stage is set for a decisive night that could shape Bahrain's volleyball season.

Arsenal Into Champions League Final

● **Gunners to face either PSG or Bayern**

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Arsenal have secured their place in the UEFA Champions League final after a 2-1 aggregate win over Atlético Madrid, following a 1-0 victory at the Emirates Stadium last

night.

Bukayo Saka proved to be the difference-maker, scoring the only goal of the match in the 44th minute. The winger reacted quickest inside the box after Jan Oblak parried Leandro Trossard's effort, firing emphatically into the roof of the net to send the home crowd into celebration.

Mikel Arteta's side showed control and discipline throughout, managing the tie well after



Saka celebrates Arsenal's winning goal against Atlético Madrid

the first leg ended level. Atlético Madrid, coached by Diego Simeone, applied pressure in spells and created several dangerous moments but ultimately could not break through Arsenal's defence.

The result sends Arsenal into their first Champions League final since the 2005-06 season, when they were beaten by Barcelona. They are still chasing their maiden title in Europe's premier competition.

Riffa Hit Four Past Al Shabab as Al Ahli Beat Sitra



Al Hashash celebrates his 11th goal of the season with Al Ahli teammates

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Matchweek 20 of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League concluded yesterday with two contrasting results, as Riffa produced a dominant second-half display to defeat Al Shabab 4-0, while Al Ahli overcame Sitra 2-0 at the Bahrain National Stadium.

At Khalifa Sports City, Al Shabab actually began the brighter side, creating the better chances in a goalless first half. Their clearest opportunity came in the 41st minute when Daniel Omokhoa failed to convert a promising counterattack, a miss that proved costly as Riffa took

control after the break. Just one minute into the second half, Riffa broke the deadlock through Thiago Fernandes, who rose to meet Rodrigo Yuri's cross and powered a header in off the crossbar in the 46th minute. That early goal shifted momentum firmly in Riffa's favour. Mohamed Mashaan's side doubled their lead in the 60th minute when Gabriel Monteiro struck his effort from inside the box after being set up by Wellington Moreira. Although goalkeeper Yousif Al Doseri got a hand to it, he could not keep it out. Riffa's dominance continued, with substitute Mohamed Hamdaoui adding a third in the 66th minute after a dazzling

solo run ended with a composed finish into the bottom corner. Fernandes then completed the scoring in the 87th minute, reacting quickest after a scramble in the box to secure his brace and a convincing 4-0 win. The result keeps Riffa third on 43 points, while Al Shabab remain deep in the relegation zone on 14 points. At the Bahrain National Stadium, Al Ahli also impressed with a 2-0 victory over Sitra. Ali Abdulmajed's side started strongly, hitting the post through Bekaye Wade and missing another clear chance via Bruno Bezerra. However, Al Ahli punished those missed opportunities in the 8th minute when Victor Oliveira



Fernandes celebrates his brace and Riffa's fourth goal

finished from close range after Abdulla Al Hashash's cross. Goalkeeper Sayed Shubbar Alawi kept Al Ahli ahead with several key saves, including a strong stop from Abulwasea Al Matari. Sitra's hopes suffered a major blow in the 54th minute when Ibrahim Jamal was sent off for an elbow on Oliveira. Al Ahli capitalised soon after, with Al Hashash converting a tap-in in the 68th minute following a driving run and assist from captain Baqer AlAsfoor. The win lifts Al Ahli to sixth place on 26 points, while Sitra remain eighth on 21 points as the league table continues to tighten heading into the final stages of the season.

Sabalenka ready to boycott Grand Slams over prize money



Aryna Sabalenka reacts during a match (file photo)

AFP | London

World number one Aryna Sabalenka said yesterday she was ready to boycott the Grand Slam tournaments in order to have a greater share of the prize money. "I feel like the show is on us. Without us there wouldn't be a tournament and there wouldn't be that entertainment," the four-time Grand Slam winner told a press conference at the Italian Open.

"I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage. "I think at some point we will boycott. I feel like that's going to be the only way to fight for our rights. "We girls can easily get together and go for this because some of the things I feel like it's really unfair to the players. I think at some point it's going to get to this." Last year almost all the leading players signed two letters to the four Grand Slam bosses demanding an increase in prize money, payments into a player welfare fund to improve retirement and maternity benefits, as well as involvement in decisions that affected them. The letters set a target of a

”
We girls can easily get together and go for this because some of the things I feel like it's really unfair to the players. I think at some point it's going to get to this

ARYNA SABALENKA

22-percent share in tournament revenue, which would bring the majors in line with the nine combined 1000-level events run by the ATP men's tour and the women's WTA tour. However Poland's Iga Swiatek, a four-time French Open singles champion, believes boycotting tournaments "is a bit extreme". "I think the most important thing honestly is to have proper communication and discussions with the governing bodies so we have some space to talk and maybe negotiate," said Swiatek, who has also won Wimbledon and the US Open. "Hopefully before Roland Garros there's going to be an opportunity to have these type of meetings and we'll see how they go."

BRAVE CF and KHK Heroes launch BRAVE Hearts to empower Bahraini businesses

Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation™ (BRAVE CF), the world's fastest-growing and most global mixed martial arts organization, has officially announced the launch of BRAVE Hearts, a purpose-driven program created in collaboration with KHK Heroes to provide meaningful assistance to businesses across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Mohammed Shahid, President of BRAVE Combat Federation, stated: "BRAVE Hearts reflects our commitment beyond sport, extending our platform to create meaningful impact within Bahrain's business community. Through this partnership with KHK Heroes, we are enabling businesses to access the tools and support they need to move forward and grow."

The initiative is rooted in a vision of strengthening local enterprises by equipping them with the resources needed to overcome present challenges and prepare for future opportunities. With a strong emphasis on resilience and shared progress, BRAVE Hearts seeks to foster an environment where



innovation and collaboration can flourish. Participants will benefit from access to professional guidance spanning integral disciplines such as digital solutions, brand positioning, financial planning, and organizational growth. This integrated approach is intended to address

real-world business demands while promoting sustainable advancement across industries. By connecting companies with experienced professionals and practical solutions, the program aims to create a supportive network that nurtures confidence and long-term viability within

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Bahrain's commercial sector. Open to businesses of varying sizes and backgrounds, BRAVE Hearts invites organizations seeking to strengthen their foundations and expand their potential to take part in the initiative. As BRAVE CF continues its international expansion, efforts such as

BRAVE Hearts highlight the promotion's broader purpose of contributing to communities and generating impact beyond sports. Interested businesses may register through the official BRAVE CF platform at www.watch.bravecf.com/brave-hearts.